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Black Sea Fleet Ships Deployed Off Georgia as Peacekeepers

AU2210164093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 21 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Peacekeeping Mission of the Black Sea Fleet Ships"]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet's small ASW-127 vessel of Lieutenant Captain Dmytro Kapuz and patrol boat-127 of Captain 2d Rank Oleksandr Lomov are presently deployed on a peacekeeping mission in the area of the Abkhazian-Georgian conflict. As our correspondent was told at the Black Sea Fleet Headquarters, the presence of the Black Sea Navy in that area is dictated by the need to ensure the safety of civil navigation and to prevent criminal actions on the part of armed formations that are based on small vessels.

The mission has been coordinated with the Ukrainian and Russian presidents.

Deployed To Protect Shipping

LD2310072093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaysky]

[Text] Moscow, October 22 (TASS)—Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, confirmed that two battleships are on a strictly peace-keeping mission protecting merchant vessels off Georgia's Black Sea coast, press centre of the naval headquarters told ITAR-TASS on Friday.

Baltin's statement was provoked by media reports that the Navy allegedly staged blockade of the port of Poti.

The press centre said it has no information about any contacts of the Russian military command with representatives of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Commander Denies Blockade of Poti

LD2210150693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Dunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 22 October—Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin confirmed today that ships of the fleet off the coast of Georgia are on an exclusively peaceful mission to protect commercial ships and are not engaged in any blockade of sea routes and ports. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this at the Black Sea fleet press center. Admiral Baltin made this statement following reports in the media today alleging that two Black Sea fleet vessels had blockaded entry into the Georgian port of Poti.

The press center also announced that two Black Sea fleet ships are at sea involved in a humanitarian mission, where they are controlling the safety of navigation.

The Black Sea press center has no information about contacts between the Russian Federation military command and representatives of ex-president of Georgia Zviad Gamsakhudia.

Prospects of CIS Assistance for Shevardnadze Reviewed

MK2210142193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Oct 93 pp 1,3

[Liana Minasyan report under the "Transcaucasus" rubric under general headline: "Tbilisi Fights Zviadists and Waits for Help. Russian Tanks Appeared in the Area of Hostilities. Armenian and Azerbaijani Battalions Do Not Hurry To Guard Railway in Western Georgia"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Judging from the fact that Ambassador Boris Pastukhov, speaking with Georgian Prime Minister Otari Patsatsia, insisted that an appeal to Russia be articulated "clearly enough"—apparently it was voiced rather unconvincingly at the meeting of the four presidents in Moscow—Russia has finally made a decision to back Shevardnadze in the civil war. This is why the unexpected outburst of Pavel Grachev, who said that as not being a party to the Collective Security Treaty, Georgia cannot count on Russia's military assistance, looks more like an attempt to run counter to the official line and makes one recall that the Kremlin has its own problems with the army—and that it is an open question whether it will be able to maintain control over the contingent deployed in Georgia if it finally has to confront the Zviadists' armed resistance.

Shevardnadze, whose government controls neither the Russian- Georgian border nor sea ports, does not make an impressive ally. Figures of the type of Gamsakhurdia, who was kept "to age" in Grozny up to the last minute, can serve as tools of destabilization, not as a government alternative. Georgia has already been carved up into warring enclaves, and there can be no predictable policy either by it or with regard to it in the near future. Abkhazia is a case in point—upon seceding from Georgia it has also defied any control by Russia after its leaders formed an alliance with the national movements of the North Caucasus, a region that is becoming a sort of "militarized zone" between Russia and the Transcaucasus. This is why Moscow appears to have opted for a multilateral coalition: in order to create a semblance of a strategic regional alliance and, in part, to spare Shevardnadze the charges that he gave Russia full powers to settle the internal conflict in Georgia.

The matter of taking part in a military action in Georgia presents Armenia, whose authorities are also ready to respond to Shevardnadze's plea for help, with the need to assess possible outcomes of the developments, all of which will "make matters worse." Still, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who met in Moscow with the Georgian prime minister, was about to agree that Armenia could assign a battalion to take part in a joint contingent. On 20 October, the republic's parliament discussed the matter at a closed-door meeting. The resulting decision was that

the president must within 24 hours issue an appropriate edict and submit it to parliament for approval. There have not been any official confirmations so far, however, that Armenian units are ready to set out. Evidently, the final decision will also depend on how successfully the Georgian government troops will be doing at the front. [passage omitted]

The hope that the proposed efforts may help lift the rail blockade may be dashed by possible provocations compromising the security of the Armenian population in Georgia, or, even worse, by the emergence of "a second front." This threat has up to now prompted the Georgian authorities to insist that there are no problems with the Armenian community's human rights, and forced Armenia to pacify autonomist trends in Dzhavakhetia, the Georgian region with a predominantly Armenian population. If at the state level Yerevan and Tbilisi continue to display an affected kindness in their relationship, the switch in the public mood so far remains unpredictable.

Yerevan, Moscow May Respond to Tbilisi's Aid Request

LD2210171793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Reports from Tbilisi, Yerevan and Moscow say there are signs that Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's call to help protect a vital supply route from Poti to Tbilisi, which is partly under control by supporters of deposed President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, will be given a positive response by the Russian and Armenian leaders.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Friday ordered the military command of the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Forces [TGRF] to start planning an operation to clear the railway blockade in western Georgia, a TGRF spokesman told Interfax.

The move comes amid a counter-offensive that Georgian government troops have launched in the West, recapturing the rebel-held town of Samtredia there. Samtredia fell to pro-Gamsakhurida forces last Sunday.

In the meantime, a 200-strong rebel unit supported by five tanks took control of the town of Ozurgeti, five kilometers south of Lanchkhuti, at dawn on Friday, a Defense Ministry spokesman in Tbilisi told Interfax. There was no fighting.

The authorities in Tbilisi are spreading a lie by claiming that troops loyal to the Shevardnadze-led junta have retaken the cities of Poti and Lanchkhuti, Gamsakhurdia's spokesman in Zugdidi told Interfax. He also spoke of a private meeting in Poti on Thursday between Gamsakhurdia and Russian military officials. But no word is given of the details.

Gamsakhurdia himself has again warned against any outside involvement in the republic's internal affairs especially under the excuse of guarding a vital railway link. He said this could lead to direct implications for the whole of western Georgia and stall the process of "stabilization, democracy and progress not only in Georgia but also in the Caucasus as a whole."

Gamsakhurdia accused the Shevardnadze government of seeking to embroil Russian, Armenian and Azeri troops in the Georgian conflict ostensibly for the protection of regional supply routes.

His statement claimed that the supply routes in rebel-held regions were secure and operational.

In the meantime, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is most likely to send an army contingent to guard supply routes in Georgia, his press office told Interfax late on Thursday.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The Armenian parliament on Wednesday fell 64 votes short of approving the measure. One Armenian deputy, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was now up to the president to take the decision. Armenia is particularly keen on seeing supply routes from the Georgian port cities of Poti and Batumi open because the vital railway link via Azerbaijan has been under blockade for quite some time.

As for Azerbaijan, local experts say President Geydar Aliyev is not likely to order an army contingent to Georgia for the time being at least. They say the government's restraint is caused by various factors, including Karabakh and instability in Azerbaijan itself.

Baku, Yerevan Debate Sending Troops To Guard Railway

MK2310120393 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Georgian-Abkhazian Talks Under UN Auspices? Tbilisi Representatives Visited Switzerland"]

[Excerpts] "The Azerbaijani Republic leadership does not think it expedient to send military contingents to western Georgia, for that may signify interference in the internal affairs of that country," an official representative of Azerbaijan's government who wished to remain anonymous told a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent. According to him, such a decision was made in Baku on close examination of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's request to send Russian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani servicemen to the military operations region to take part in joint action "to ensure an uninterrupted functioning of the main railroad line between Poti, Tbilisi, Yerevan, and Baku.

It has become known from a source close to one of the opposition parliamentary factions that Armenia's parliament is inclined to turn down, in its closed-door session, President Ter-Petrosyan's initiative on the participation

by Armenian military formations in the operations planned at Shevardnadze's call to unblock railroads in Georgia. [passage omitted]

According to a report from confidential sources, planes were landing throughout last night in Kutaisi: The Russian 21st airborne assault brigade, formerly based right there but then withdrawn, has been transferred there. [passage omitted]

Russians Not To Send Guards Until State Troops Leave

LD2410133693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 24 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Oct—Russian troops will begin guarding roads and railway lines in western Georgia only after Georgian Government forces have been withdrawn from those routes. Announcing this today, well-informed sources in circles close to the command of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus (GRFT), stress that the main reason for this decision is the GRFT's reluctance to become drawn into combat operations between the opposing sides.

This statement was made in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent in connection with requests from the Georgian leadership for Russian Army units to give government forces combat support. The Group of Russian Forces is helping the Georgian Army, but only in the technical department. In particular, its repair works are fixing armored vehicles and artillery systems damaged during combat operations in Abkhazia and western Georgia.

Caucasian Confederation Set To Help Abkhazia

LD2610094793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Sochi October 26 TASS—The Confederation of Caucasian Peoples held a session of its parliament in Sukhumi today to consider economic assistance to Abkhazia, devastated by its prolonged armed conflict with Georgia. The press service of the Abkhazian parliament told ITAR-TASS that representatives of north Caucasian autonomies, including Kabardian Balkars, North and South Ossetia, Ingushetia, Adyge, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, Dagestan and Abkhazia, agreed that they would extend all kind of assistance to the Abkhazian people if Georgia resumes hostilities against its breakaway autonomy of Abkhazia.

Participants in the session adopted an address to Russian President Boris Yeltsin requesting the lifting of the economic blockade of Abkhazia.

Heads of Cooperation, Consultative Bodies Meet

PM2510111793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed "Monitoring" column report under general headline: "Conferences"]

[Text] A conference of leaders of interstate coordination and consultative organs of the CIS—leaders of ministries and departments of the Russian Federation and their standing executive bodies—began work at the Russian State Committee for Economic Cooperation With Commonwealth Member States yesterday.

Taking part in the conference's work are leaders of 19 interstate councils, such as, for example, the Intergovernmental Council on Industry, the Electricity and Power Industry Council, the Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Council, the Interstate Eurasian Coal and Metal Association, and others. Leaders of the relevant Russian ministries and departments have also been inivted to take part in the meeting.

Vladimir Mashchits, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation With Commonwealth Member States, will sum up the results of the conference at a 22 October briefing for Russian and foreign journalists.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Oct

LD2610122493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0535 GMT 26 Oct 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin's trip to Yaroslavl on the occasion of the unveiling of a monument to Prince Yaroslav the Wise is one of principal topics in the Russian press.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) carries an article headlined "Boris Yeltsin Once Again Proclaimed an End to the Soviet Form of Government and Reaffirmed his Policy of Establishing the Equality of All Subjects of the Federation".

The newspaper singles out the president's words that "the reforming of the soviets (councils) is in full progress and will be carried through, thus putting an end to Soviet power." The article points out that President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine was also invited to attend the monument unveiling ceremony but he did not come.

"The ceremony, which was intended to testify to Russo-Ukrainian friendship, became a one-sided Russian act," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, in a report from Yaroslavl specially notes that President Yeltsin, in response to questions put by the newspaper's correspondent, emphasised the democratic nature of a future constitution of Russia, since "it will be adopted at a referendum through a countrywide poll," and that "the draft constitution has been drawn up on the basis of advanced Western standards of democracy".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, in an article headlined "The Election Campaign is Drawing to its Middle Mark", analyses in detail the course of the election campaign in Russia. Not a single party or bloc has collected 100,000 signatures in their support so far, which is stipulated by the statute of elections to the State Duma (council). But almost all main rivals at party elections have already launched signature-collecting drives. Brief notes on the subject have been published by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

TRUD runs an interview with Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the board of the Free Russia People's Party (FRPP). "It was not fortuitous that the FRPP was referred to as the 'Rutskoy party'," Lipitskiy pointed out.

"The party had many members who were oriented personally towards Aleksandr Rutskoy and were inclined to support him. I think, it must be admitted that the party's prominence and its possibilities at the local level were associated with him," he said.

Touching upon the coincidence of the party's remarks with intransigent opposition statements in the critique of the existing regime, Lipitskiy admitted the possibility of such coincidence but ruled out "any cooperation with the red-and-brown" the type of the National Salvation Front.

Speaking about the current election campaign, Lipitskiy pointed out that there can be no question of his party's full-scale participation in it any longer. "The 'suspension' of our activities (we have not been given any reasons for such suspension) has inflicted an irreparable damage," he stated.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA turns to one of the aspects of the increased independence of the subjects of the Russian Federation. In an article headlined "The More Sovereign Regions Become, the Worse is the Position of the Military There", the newspaper points out at a time when "a law-governed space in the country is only in the formative stage, local authorities in some places have already worked out a convenient-to-them tactics of ignoring federal laws," which has an adverse effect on the position of servicemen.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, commenting on the Ukrainian parliament decision to allow a further operation of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, explains this unpopular measure by the "pressure of purely economic problems".

Ukraine is lacking energy reserves which would make up for the shut-down of the station on the eve of the upcoming winter. Moreover, the newspaper reports, "nuclear experts around the world, including Ukrainian ones, are confident that the Chernobyl nuclear power station not only can but also should remain in operation until it runs out of its reasonable potential (i.e. for another 15-20 years)".

Radio Views Expanding Trade Prospects With U.S.

LD2510221093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In the course of the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Moscow on Friday and Saturday, it was agreed that President Yeltsin and President Clinton will have a meeting in the middle of January. Vladislav Kozyakov comments:

The date of a future Russian-U.S. summit is not the sole result of the talks. Last weekend certain preparations for it began to be made. At the negotiations between the U.S. secretary of state and the Russian leaders, quite a few problems of mutual interest were brought up and understanding was achieved on many of them. For instance, Warren Christopher has confirmed the United States support for President Yeltsin's reforms in Russia.

At the same time he followed the American tradition to express the expectation the forthcoming parliamentary elections will be free and democratic. Later, as he looked into how the election campaign was going on, the U.S. secretary of state said that he was satisfied with his findings. He said the United States was prepared to give technical assistance in holding the elections, if Russia was interested in it.

That was yet another example of how the American people feel about reforms in Russia. Yet however important the questions of political partnership, economic cooperation is taking an ever more prominent place in Russian-U.S. relations. In this the emphasis is placed on mutually beneficial and fair trade. Although reforms in Russia haven't begun to work to full capacity yet, opportunities in this field have been expanding.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has said that the export of American goods to Russia was growing: over the previous 12 months it has more than doubled. As a result more than 30,000 jobs have been created in the United States. This is just one example. There are many others, including the agreement on exchanges in the field of power engineering and astronautics.

All Russian-U.S. contacts are too numerous to count. Moscow has responded with great satisfaction to the statement made by a U.S. State Department official to the effect that President Bill Clinton, during his forthcoming visit to Moscow in January, may declare that Congress has lifted the Cold War restrictions for trade.

That should have been done long ago. After all, the agreement to lift trade barriers was concluded as early as last April, at the Vancouver summit. Deplorably it hasn't been effected yet, either by the United States or by the Coordinating Committee, COCOM. Meanwhile the full normalization of Russian-U.S. trade would be the most effective support for democracy and reforms in Russia.

As they hold bilateral talks, the two countries increasingly focus their attention on this problem. It has already been discussed during Warren Christopher's visit to Moscow, and it will be examined further when Vice President Albert Gore will come to Moscow in December—let alone President Clinton's visit to Moscow, when it will be central to the agenda.

There are very good chances that two great powers may well become close trading partners.

Kozyrev Leaves for Visit to Ireland

LD2510075693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0648 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has left for Dublin on Monday [25 October]. This is the first official visit to Ireland paid by the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Kozyrev is expected to meet Irish President Mary Robinson, Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and other officials.

Sources from the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS that a joint Russo-Irish declaration is expected to be signed during the visit.

Arrives in Dublin

LD2510141493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1223 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[Excerpt] Dublin, 25 Oct— Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Ireland on an official visit today. He was welcomed at Dublin airport by Dick Spring, Ireland's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Signs Joint Declaration

LD2510170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] Dublin, 25 Oct—Bilateral relations and a broad range of international issues dominated the talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Irish counterpart Dick Spring, who is also deputy prime minister. Kozyrev is paying an official visit to Dublin.

A "joint declaration by the Russian Federation and Ireland" was signed after the talks. This is the first major political document in the 20-year history of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Dublin. The declaration notes the primary role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. It stresses the importance of expanding cooperation within the CSCE framework. A commitment to the total destruction of all types of mass destruction weapons is expressed. The document defines the main areas for the further invigoration of bilateral relations, spells out the priorities for economic cooperation, and notes the importance of encouraging contacts and exchanges in culture, education, health, the media, sports, and tourism.

"The sides consider," the document stresses, "that successful implementation of economic reform in the Russian Federation, a resolution of its external debt problem, and the harmonization of its legislation with international principles will create new opportunities for the expansion of two-way trade and the strengthening of economic ties. The sides stress the importance of integrating Russia with the world's financial and economic system. They will cooperate within the framework of the IMF, the World Bank, and other international financial institutions."

Notes were exchanged which lift restrictions on the number of personnel serving with Russian and Irish institutions in Dublin and Moscow.

Stops in London, Meets Butrus-Ghali

LD2610015093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0015 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Pakhomov, Yuriy Sidorov, Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] London, 26 Oct—The problem of finding a settlement in Yugoslavia was discussed at the meeting on Monday evening in London between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, on an official visit to England, and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, who had arrived here.

Galina Sidorova, the minister's political aide, told journalists that the talks, lasting nearly two hours, centered on the idea of holding a second session of the London conference on former Yugoslavia. The UN secretary general discussed his ideas with Kozyrev, whom he considers a central political figure in the Yugoslav settlement.

The Russian side agreed in principle to holding this conference, at which it would be possible, for example, to discuss the expediency of producing a "Marshall Plan" for former Yugoslav republics which have suffered extensivley from the fighting. This forum would have to be carefully planned out and would need the backing of all the fighting sides in former Yugoslavia as well as of all the participants in last year's international conference held in the British captial, but Kozyrev and Butrus-Ghali agreed that preparation for it should in no way affect the activities of Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg coordinating the talks process with representatives of the three conflicting communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina under UN and European Community auspices, Sidorova said.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and in Georgia and UN sanctions against Libya were also touched upon during the meeting.

Irish Minister Comments

LD2610095493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] London October 26 TASS—Ireland prizes very highly its relations with Russia and the latter's great role in international affairs, and deems it necessary to hold regular consultations with the Russian Federation on a broad range of problems of mutual concern, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring told ITAR-TASS after the visit paid to Dublin by his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev.

Just as Ireland, he noted, the countries of the European Community are promoting their relations with Russia. He said that Ireland's approach boiled down to the perfection of mutual ties on the basis of partnership, which would contribute to the common efforts to settle the outstanding problems currently facing Europe and all the world. Russia and Ireland will stand to gain from close cooperation in economy and business, where substantial progress has already been witnessed, he added.

Touching on the October tragic events in Russia, Spring said that President Yeltsin and the Russian Government had reaffirmed their firm intention to implement a broad range of political and economic reforms. He stressed that Ireland clearly realised the great difficulties of the transitional period, through which Russia was now living. The latest events prove the need to promote democracy, and Ireland hails the upcoming free elections in Russia, which will allow the Russian people to clearly express their view on the country's future. It is important to place the principles of democracy and human rights at the basis of the process of reforms, Spring stated.

Fedorov Sees Finnish President as Intermediary With West

LD2310085193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki, 22 October—Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, who is here on a working visit, has expressed satisfaction with the meeting that he had today with Finnish President Mauno Koivisto. The most important point, he declared in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, is that the president is very interested in the development of events in Russia. We discussed our domestic economic situation in detail, but we paid particularly great attention to international cooperation, especially with the G-7 countries, the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and the World Bank. I do not think we overlooked one single aspect of this partnership: phases of development, shortcomings, problems, and so on.

I think the Finnish president, who is now preparing for a visit to the U.S., wants to act, to a certain extent, as an intermediary, urging a particular line among Western leaders on the provision of assistance to us, Boris Fedorov continued. This is why he was interested most of all in where our most painful areas were, what were the most important problems, and how the process of renewal in the economy was developing. We did not really touch on bilateral issues. We talked mainly about

the state of the reforms and their timetable up to and after the elections. My opinion, which I explained to the president, is that the reforms must not be affected adversely by the elections and that cooperation with international organizations in relation to our reform program must be developed. An IMF mission is in Moscow now, and we are holding talks with the London Club. I believe there is every chance that our international cooperation will acquire a new, higher quality by the beginning of next year. As for the G-7, not everything has proceeded as quickly as I would have liked. The G-7 is now setting up a mission in Moscow, an act that is in itself very unusual. However, it is still unclear how cooperation with the G-7 will progress in practice, since the dramatic events of October have left their mark on the process.

I believe my main task is to prevent the elections from turning into a series of populist promises and wrecking the budget, the deputy prime minister stressed in conclusion.

Comments on Reforms

LD2410174493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1642 GMT 24 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki, 24 Oct—Issues connected with the prospects for Russia's reforms dominated a news conference in Helsinki given before his departure by Boris Fedorov, Russian vice premier and finance minister, who ended his working visit to Finland today.

After the dramatic October events in Moscow, he said that a completely new situation has arisen under which the decisionmaking process is significantly easier. We believe that it is now possible to make a breakthrough in several areas. At present a number of juridical acts are being prepared and should be adopted before the new parliament convenes. We have a chance to solve several major problems which will determine the situation in 1994.

Boris Fedorov said that among these problems is the issue of reforming the budget which, from his point of view, is much easier to solve without parliament. The second issue is ownership of land. We expect the president to sign a decree allowing land to be traded freely in the very near future. Parliament blocked such a decision being adopted the whole time and there are opponents of it in government circles as well. This is a completely new step for us, and it, too, must be taken before the new parliament starts working, since one cannot delay any longer.

At the same time, he continued, I am firmly convinced: the sooner parliament assembles, the better it will be for the economy. The balance of forces has to be restored as soon as possible. It has to be said that not all problems previously stemmed from parliament; some of them are also linked with the executive branch of power. I hope that the elections will give us an opportunity of forming a more homogenous government, one that is more united in its views, in which internal debates do not hinder progress.

Boris Fedorov criticized the role of the Russian Central Bank in the national economy. We remain, perhaps, the only country in the world where the central bank is concerned with anything you like except stable finances, he stressed.

The vice premier said that the government's strategy aims to achieve a reduction in the level of inflation from 15 percent in January next year to 2-3 percent in December.

Within a year the number of unemployed in Russia could exceed 10 million, which, Boris Fedorov concedes, is fraught with great danger.

He summed up by saying that this means 1994 would be a critical year, during which economic difficulties would grow, while at the same time real reforms would move ahead. We already have our noveaux riches, and there is a very poor majority among the population. I think that one of the main aims of any government in Russia should be the creation of a real middle class, capable of taking on the role of pillar of a democratic market economy.

Grachev in Helsinki, Comments on Lithuania

PM2210102793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev and Konstantin Eggert: "Pavel Grachev Blackmailing Riga and Tallinn of His Own Initiative, Russian Diplomats Claim"]

[Text] "If the discrimination against the Russian-speaking population in Latvia and Estonia continues, Russian troops will stay in those two countries as long as it takes to solve the problem," Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, who is on an official visit to Helsinki, has stated.

The general drew a sharp distinction between Lithuania on the one hand, and Latvia and Estonia on the other. Lithuania, as he put it, has now almost completely resolved all the issues of social protection for the Russian-speaking population. That is why there were no problems with withdrawing all Russian Army units and subunits by 1 September. And, Pavel Grachev noted, there was a more combat-capable grouping in Lithuania.

So is Moscow linking the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltic countries to the position of the Russian-speaking population? As is well known, there are two answers to this question in Russian Government circles—the Defense Ministry says "yes" and the Foreign Ministry says "no." It is not entirely clear which view prevails in the Kremlin. So far Russia considers it very useful to periodically scare Riga and Tallinn with statements from the military and to reassure them with statements by diplomats. The story of Pavel Grachev's

Helsinki statement is not the first and, judging by everything, will not be the last.

Petty blackmail does not become a great power—after all, it is obvious to any unbiased observer that the question of the Russian-speaking population will take years to resolve, and the use of strong-arm pressure methods is likely only to make that solution more remote. The games over the Russian units in Latvia and Estonia prompt nothing but irritation in Europe, giving rise to doubts about the stability of Russia's foreign policy course.

The defense minister's statement produced, at the very least, confusion at the Russian Foreign Ministry. In the diplomats' opinion, the troop withdrawal from the two former Soviet Baltic republics is a political [illegible] and, consequently, should be decided by the president rather than the Defense Ministry.

"The problem of the troop presence in the two countries should not be linked to observance of the rights of the Russian-speaking population. It is not right when the Army undertakes functions that are not its province, defending the rights of the civilian population," the people we spoke to stated. "Human rights in the Baltic countries are a matter for political talks."

Foreign Ministry sources have also reported that talks with Latvia and Estonia are continuing. The Russian side continues to insist on its own timetable for the completion of the Army withdrawal—in 1994 (17,000 servicemen from Latvia, and around 4,000 from Estonia).

Shokhin To Discuss EC Agreement in Brussels Talks

LD2510180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1133 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin flew to Brussels Monday [25 October] for a one day visit. Before boarding the plane he told Interfax that he and Lion Britten, Deputy Chairman of the Commission of the European Community (CEC), will discuss "political issues in finalizing a Russo-CEC partnership and cooperation agreement."

Shokhin said he intended to "try to come to an understanding on items on which disagreements were recorded in last June's negotiations." If the compromises satisfy Russia, the CEC will ask the Council of Community Foreign Ministers for a mandate to sign an agreement, probably before the year's end.

Shokhin said that Russia wanted the same trading rights other non-CEC member states enjoy. Russia is currently being treated as a country whose economy is state-run.

The vice premier also said that the CEC presses for financial companies of the Common Market to have the same rights in Russia that Russian companies enjoy. This issue will also be discussed in Brussels. Shokhin emphasized that Russian companies having competitive edges such as transport, aviation and aerospace services are not allowed into European markets. In his words, "where we are strong we are shut out, where we are weak European companies want to penetrate our market." Shokhin said that Russia will not allow EC financial, banking and insurance companies into its market on the conditions enjoyed by Russian banks and firms but was prepared to make exceptions.

Shokhin Begins Talks

LD2610093993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels October 26 TASS—Matters connected with the conclusion of an agreement on partnership and cooperation between the European Community (EC) and Russia were discussed at talks held at the EC headquarters here on Monday [25 October].

The talks involved delegations headed by Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and Leon Britten, vice-president of the Commission of the European communities.

The talks were constructive and made it possible to bring the sides' viewpoints on many positions closer together, Shokhin told ITAR-TASS before leaving for Moscow.

"Mutual understanding has been reached on a full range of matters which were recently the points at issue. For example, positions on the commodity trade issue, which earlier presented difficulties, have been almost fully agreed upon. Nevertheless, there still remain several points on which the two sides should continue the coordination of approaches," Shokhin said.

Soskovets Talks With EC Representative in Moscow

LD2510181093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, met Michael Emerson, head of the Moscow-based representation of Commission of European Communities on Monday.

According to Soskovets' counsellor Yuriy Mikhaylov, they discussed holding a round-table discussion between Russia's and EEC industrialized countries' representatives on joint investments, touched upon the issue of regulating alluminium and uranium exports from Russia and considered arranging for Russia's joining the general agreement on trade and tariffs at an early date.

Besides they agreed that from now on all the decisions of the commission which concern Russia's interests, should be made only after relevant consultations with Russia.

Decisionmaking Viewed

LD2510193593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] From now on the European Community will be taking decisions concerning Russia's interests only after consultations with Moscow. This agreement was reached

in Moscow on Monday at a meeting between Russia's First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets and the EC Ambassador, Michael Emerson.

According to the first deputy premier's press secretary, Yuriy Mikhaylov, the two men also discussed the plans to hold a roundtable conference between industrialists from the EC countries and Russia, cooperation in investment and solution to problems connected with aluminium and uranium exports from Russia and with the efforts to speed up Russia's joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Paper Views Changes to COCOM, Sees Continuing Curbs

PM2510154593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Moscow Will Be Able To Buy What Was Previously Barred From It"]

[Text] Tokyo—COCOM, the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls governing exports to communist countries, is soon to disappear—it could happen as early as the end of November if the intensive negotiations being conducted by the main founders and members of COCOM end in agreement among the sides involved.

According to a Japanese account, the initiative to scrap COCOM in its present guise came from the American Administration. Washington believes that COCOM, as a symbol of the East-West confrontation which existed for 44 years, must be replaced by another structure whose functions and purpose are as yet unclear.

At the end of June President Clinton proposed to the G-7 partners a major overhaul of the activity of the committee, to which 17 developed countries belong, and did not rule out the abolition of COCOM. In September the G-7 debated the U.S. proposal in earnest at expert level, and at the end of last month in Bonn there was an enlarged discussion involving Belgium and Australia in addition to the G-7 countries. Then a round of discussions was held in Rome in October, and a meeting is planned for Oslo at the beginning of November. According to the Japanese information, at the Oslo meeting a base accord should be reached at expert level which will then be formulated as a multilateral intergovernmental agreement at the end of November.

This farewell, however, does not mean that all the floodgates built over the past four-and-a-half decades are going to be opened. Whatever innovations there are, control of the export of goods deemed to be of strategic importance and falling within the category of "dual-purpose" goods (that is, goods which can be used both for civilian and military purposes) will remain, but with regard to the countries of the former socialist bloc, this control will not be as harsh and discriminatory as it used to be.

The United States is insisting that COCOM's successor should still deal with questions of the control of the export of conventional weapons to Third World countries. Japan would like the new agency to be responsible for a regime to control the proliferation of missile technology, chemical and biological weapons, and components for their production, although many object to such centralization.

Nor has agreement yet been reached on the restrictions on the export of high-technology goods which are to remain in force after the abolition of the celebrated COCOM list (there are over 150 types of commodities and technologies on it at present).

Supercomputers and a number of other high-technology goods will most probably remain on the list. According to the assessments of the G-7 experts, exports from the former Soviet republics, including Russia, and the countries of the former "Eastern bloc" are not controlled, and consequently there could be a leak of strategic commodities to "unreliable" countries—Iraq, Iran, Libya, and North Korea.

Leadership To Seek Membership in G-7

LD2310095093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Russia intends to propose to the leading Western states to hold summits as meetings of the leaders of 8 states rather than in accordance with the "7+1" scheme. This was announced by the Russian Foreign Minister's Press Secretary, Galina Sidorova in an exclusive interview.

In her words, the Russian leadership realizes that the economic integration of Russia with these states should be carried out stage by stage. The Western states could assist with this through appropriate financial aid. On the other hand, the problems of the Western states and Russia in the sphere of politics and security have much in common, the press secretary emphasized. To resolve them, Russia should cooperate closely with the European countries, Japan, U.S.A. and Canada.

However, the Western states pursue a policy which could be described as "artificial fencing off," the press secretary pointed out. Sidorova characterized it as "nonproductive" and as hampering implementation of the package of proposals adopted at the G-7 and Russia summit in Tokyo this July.

As the first move on the way to integration, Russia proposes that the G-7 hold a meeting of the foreign and finance ministers in Moscow.

Commenting on the results of the visit to France by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on October 20-21, Sidorova emphasized its concrete character and productive outcomes.

The Russian and French foreign ministers signed the agreements, in Paris on October 20, on cooperation in dismantling nuclear weapons and for their secure transportation in Russia.

After the signing, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe announced that France would allot 400 Mn Fr. [francs]

for the dismantling and approximately 400 Mn. Fr. for the transporting of nuclear weapons.

Kozyrev pointed out that France was one of the first countries to support Yeltsin in October, 1993. That is why Russia proposed to this country a package of proposals on closer cooperation within the scope of bilateral relations, the CSCE, the Council of Europe and other European and international organizations.

An agreement on a visit to Moscow by the French prime minister in early November of this year was also achieved.

Russian UN Official Against Military Action in Serbia

LD2210222793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] A military action against Serbia, an option advocated by the U.S., may be of only psychological significance and bring no tangible results. Yuriy Chizhik, who heads the press office of the UN Protection Force in former Yugoslavia, said at a briefing in Moscow Friday that the warring parties were further from an agreement that last September following the rejection of the UN and CSCE peace plan by Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic.

Chizhik did not, however, rule out the possibility that an armistice might be signed before December "when the parties run out of resources."

Spanish General Arrives in St. Petersburg

LD2010170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 20 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Zavinovskiy]

[Text] St. Petersburg October 20 TASS—Chief of staff of the Spanish land force, Division General Padro de Santaliana arrived for an official visit to St. Petersburg, Russia's second largest city.

On Wednesday morning he met with Lieutenant-general Vladimir Sokolov, chief of staff of the Leningrad Military District.

The Spanish general, who is due to visit the Piskarevskoye memorial cemetery and the centre for training artillery officers, told ITAR-TASS that the main aim of his visit was to strengthen friendly relations between the armies of the two countries. He said "positive prospects and active cooperation in the military field lie ahead".

The Spanish chief of staff and other Spanish officials will leave St. Petersburg on Thursday.

Iraqi Delegation Arrives on 4-Day Visit 21 Oct

JN2210102693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Oct (INA)—Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry undersecretary, last night arrived in Moscow leading a technical delegation on a four-day visit to the Russian Federation.

The INA correspondent in Moscow reported that the delegation's visit falls within the context of the efforts to explain what Iraq has done to implement the UN Security Council resolution that dictate that the embargo imposed on Iraq should be lifted.

Discusses Resuming Cooperation

LD2210173393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1353 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Oct, (BIZNES-TASS)—Oleg Davydov, the Russian minister of foreign economic relations, today received an Iraqi delegation headed by foreign under secretary Riyad al-Qaysi.

Al-Qaysi informed Davydov of Iraq's fulfillment of UN Security Council decisions and resolutions. He said that the Iraqi side is, in this connection, awaiting an appropriate response by the UN Security Council regarding the sanctions against Iraq and in particular permission for Iraq to export crude oil.

During the conversation, views were exchanged on the resumption of trade and economic, scientific and technological cooperation between Russia and Iraq in the light of the Russian-Iraqi trade and economic negotiations held in Baghdad at the start of August this year and the intergovernmental documents that had been signed, creating a legal treaty basis for this.

"We favor a just solution of matters regarding Iraq," Oleg Davydov said during the talks. "We are against acts of an anti- humanitarian character being taken internationally against this country."

Recent deliveries of Russian grain harvesting combines to Iraq were the start of a process to restore Russian-Iraqi trade and economic links. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has also applied to the UN Sanctions Committee for permission to begin the construction of a power station in Iraq.

It was noted during the talks that matters relating to clearing Iraq's indebtedness to Russia can be settled only after a full resumption of trade between the two countries. Experts at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations estimate that this debt now amounts to over $5 billion.

Discusses Economic Cooperation

JN2210194793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 22 Oct (INA)—Mr. Kolikov, Russian Foreign Ministry under secretary, met in Moscow today with Dr. Riyad al- Qaysi, [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry under secretary, and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Moscow.

A correspondent for INA in Moscow reported that during the meeting, Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi reviewed in detail what Iraq has done to implement Security Council

resolutions. The meeting was attended by the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department.

Sources within the Iraqi delegation told INA's correspondent that discussions with the Russian officials were conducted in a frank atmosphere and underscored the desire of the two sides to reach a mutual understanding toward the issues under discussion.

Oleg Davydov, the Russian minister of foreign economic relations, also received Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi and his delegation. They discussed the present and future relations of economic cooperation and the importance of resuming this cooperation in light of the agreements reached recently between the two countries.

Baghdad Denies Funding Russian Opposition Parties

LD2510172293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 25 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Iraq has never given any material aid to the Russian 'patriotic' opposition and all reports to the contrary are "a sheer invention," a spokesman for the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow declared in an interview with Interfax. Ahmed Sahkran commented on a report made on Russian television on Sunday that during "a confidential" visit to Russia, its foreign intelligence chief, Yevgeniy Primakov, received from his Iraqi counterpart $7 Mn, set aside by Baghdad for the Russian opposition.

Although Sakhran confirmed the fact of the meeting in Moscow last weekend between Primakov and an Iraqi foreign intelligence officer, he described it as "a usual exchange of views on a number of issues of interest to both sides."

"Since contacts between the two countries' intelligence services had been under way for many years, there was nothing surprising in the Iraqi official's arrival in Moscow," the diplomat remarked. He dismissed as "absurd" the suggestion that Iraq, itself in dire economic straights, managed "to raise as much as $7 Mn dollars to help any kind of political organization abroad."

Georgia 'Balkanization' Has Perils for Russia

PM2210104793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Oct 93 pp 1,3

[Article by Petr Karapetyan: "Increasing 'Balkanization' of Georgia. A Grave Danger for Russia Too"]

[Text] Georgia is taking urgent steps to join the CIS. Some 121 parliamentary deputies (the minimum being 110) have already signed a statement in support of Eduard Shevardnadze's proposal on joining the Commonwealth. The next stage, apparently, will be the convening of parliament, at which the decision to join the CIS will be ratified.

This is the second attempt by Georgia's leaders in its recent history to join the CIS. The "pioneer," if I may remind you, was none other than, Zviad Gamsakhurdia. In December 1991, as soon as the artillery of the opposition rebelling against him opened up, he sent telegram after telegram to Moscow requesting Georgia's immediate, instant admission to the CIS. The plan was simple: Having neither the forces nor the capability to crush the ooposition, Gamsakhurdia hoped to do this by bringing Georgia into the CIS collective security system. He did not get anywhere at the time.

Nearly two years of history has repeated itself. Dismissing the very idea of the CIS following the overthrow of Gamsakhurdia, the new Georgian leaders did all they could to emphasize their independence from Russia and the other CIS countries, while not forgetting to make a big show of their inclination toward the West. Look how much mud was flung at Russia during the Abkhaz war! What humiliation and outrages Russian servicemen and members of their families suffered and indeed continue to suffer in Georgia! One terrible figure: In the past two years 70 Russian servicemen—think on it, reader—have been killed in Georgia! Only once has the Georgian Government deigned to offer condolences to the family of the dead.

And Russia, vilified and slandered, unlike Georgia's beloved West, which fobbed Georgia off with supplies of humanitarian aid and 10 UN observers when asked to intervene in the Abkhaz conflict, it took on the entire burden of peacemaking in the region.

Tbilisi ran to Russia (for the umpteenth time) when Georgia was at its wit's end. It must be remembered that Eduard Shevardnadze started talking about the CIS when the fate of Sukhumi was practically sealed. Consider the fact that after the fall of Sukhumi Eduard Shevardnadze immediately changed his position and said that there could be no quesiton of joining the CIS. After all this toing and froing how can one explain his current burning desire to see Georgia in the CIS, and how come the parliamentarians, immovable until the subject of the CIS was broached, have become so compliant?

The explanation is simple: Tbilisi officials are also in danger. Zviad Gamsakhurdia has snapped up the whole of Western Georgia. Abkhazia is hard at work building fortifications on the borders with Georgia. South Ossetia is making a big show of independence from Tbilisi, and even Ajaria occasionally mentions autonomous status, albeit far more tactfully and diplomatically... Georgia faces the danger of "Balkanization." Things are bad—so the Georgian leaders are prepared to vote for the CIS with both hands.

Are the Commonwealth countries supposed to play the part of the collective boy who Georgia has decided will pull the chestnuts out of the fire?

Certainly Russia cannot stand aloof from what is going on in Georgia. If the Balkans are the powder keg of Europe, then Georgia is the powder keg of the Caucasus, and, unfortunately, in Russia's backyard in the south.

Given this, political scientists believe, Moscow must first of all get to grips with what is happening in Georgia.

Russia's complex of strategic interests there, from geopolitical and economic to the problems of the Russian-speaking population and the grouping of forces, has taken shape over a long period of time. It is pretty clear that Russian policy in the region, not only in the foreseeable future, as far as that is possible at the moment, but in the very long term, should be shaped by concern for its own interests, rather than by the problems of the latest Georgian political leader, be it Gamsakhurdia, Shevardnadze, or someone else.

It is in this context, I believe, that the Russian Foreign Ministry decision to respond to Eduard Shevardnadze's request and send a troop contingent to Georgia to guard the Poti-Tbilisi railroad should be viewed. It is particularly emphasized that the contingent's mission is a peacemaking one and, naturally, it will not participate in combat actions on anyone's side. But one should not idealize the situation the Russian contingent could find itself in given that Georgia does not have a military cooperation treaty with Russia, is not a member of the CIS, and, therefore, as Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev said, "...is not party to the adoption of joint measures on safeguarding security." On the Georgian fronts the situation changes at the blink of an eye, but the danger of Russians' becoming involved in the conflict exists nonetheless. That is why when introducing the contingent into the conflict zone it is necessary to start devising a whole range of political, diplomatic, and, if need be, other measures to protect Russia's interests in the region.

In turn, Georgia, having invited Russia, as a foreign policy partner, to solve its internal problems, must guarantee observance of its interests.

As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA was told by Major General Vasiliy Belchenko, assistant commander of the Group of Russian Forces in the Transcaucasus for personnel, the Group's headquarters, in accordance with a directive from Russian President Boris Yeltsin and a corresponding Russian Armed Forces General Staff directive, on 21 October started planning measures connected with guarding transport arteries on Georgian territory.

Government Frees Detained Georgian Intelligence Agents

PM2210140393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Andrey Aderekhin report: "Georgian Special Service Personnel Sent From Krasnodar to Tbilisi"]

[Text] Krasnodar—After four months in a Security Ministry Krasnodar Kray Directorate detention center four members of Georgia's Information and Intelligence Service have been sent from Krasnodar to Tbilisi.

The day before, IZVESTIYA was given the right to an exclusive interview with the Georgian special service personnel.

It emerged that these Georgian information and intelligence service staffers were arrested early in the summer for illegal actions on Krasnodar Kray territory. They used Russian territory to gather and convey to Georgia intelligence linked with the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. All this activity has been fully borne out by proof gathered as a result of operational inquiries and investigations.

However, despite the fact that any activity by foreign special services on the territory of another sovereign state is punishable by law, owing to changed circumstances, ahead of the signing of an antiterrorism agreement between the Russian and Georgian special services on combating terrorism, and also as an act of goodwill, the Russian side considered it possible to confine itself to deporting the Georgian Information and Intelligence Service personnnel from Russia. At the same time, the Security Ministry Directorate stressed, this decision does not mean that Russia supports one of the parties to the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Our state still advocates the peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Before dispatching the Georgian special service personnel to Tbilisi, IZVESTIYA's correspondent was told that they have no complaints regarding the conditions during their stay in the detention center and the actual course of the investigation.

Four 'Spies' Handed Over

LD2310103593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By correspondent S. Shcherbal from Krasnodar; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Here is some news about the special services. Four "residents" belonging to the Georgian information and intelligence service, who had been engaged in espionage on Russian territory, were released from custody yesterday and handed over to representatives of the Georgian side. The handover of the Georgian special service agents was made possible by an initiative of the Georgian Foreign Ministry and the agreement of Russia's general procurator. It should be looked on as an act of goodwill on the part of the Russian Federation.

The investigation is continuing, but already it is possible to say that the activities of the spy network in the town of Sochi were to do with ascertaining the underwater currents surrounding the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, and the involvement or non-involvement of Moscow's hand in the events. The Georgian side has left the question of the further fate of these knights of the cloak and dagger unanswered. Meanwhile, the Abkhazian authorities have sentenced them to death in absentia.

Interior Minister, Georgian Counterpart Hold Talks

LD2310141993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1353 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—According to the public relations center of the Russian Interior Ministry,

a meeting between Viktor Yerin, interior minister of the Russian Federation, and Shota Kviraya, interior minister of the Republic of Georgia, was held in Moscow today. During the conversation, a wide range of issues of mutual interest were discussed. In particular, the ministers discussed measures to develop further cooperation between the interior bodies of the two states in combating crime.

Troops Refrain From Operations in Georgia

LD2510184293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The spokeswoman for the Russian defense minister, Yelena Agapova, has dismissed the reports by the press office of Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia that Russian servicemen are taking part in military operations on the side of the Georgian Government. In an interview with Interfax today, she said that the Russian units of the Transcaucasian districts remained at their locations at the moment.

Agapova said Russian troops were ready to take the railroad between the towns of Batumi and Tbilisi under control. The only condition is to fulfill the agreements reached at the meeting between Eduard Shevardnadze, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev with Boris Yeltsin on October 8 in Moscow. Among other stipulations of the documents, she highlighted the liquidation of the armed formations of Gamsakhurdia's supporters led by Vakhtang Kobalia and sending Armenian and Azerbaijani units to protect roads in Georgia. "So far, the agreements have not been fulfilled, therefore, the Transcaucasian units have not been given the order to take under control the railroad Batumi-Tbilisi," the spokeswoman said.

Lukin Says Ukraine Nuclear Policy 'Dangerous'

BR2610102093 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 24 Oct 93 p 14

[Interview with Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, Russian ambassador to the United States, by Sergio Sergi in Moscow; date not given: "Allied to U.S., But With Dignity"]

[Text] [Sergi] Mr. Ambassador, let us begin with the rumors that you have been dismissed. What happened?

[Lukin] There are always so many rumors, and those about my dismissal are not the latest ones. Moscow is full of gossip. Yesterday there was talk of the dismissal of Gerashchenko, the head of the central bank.

[Sergi] What happened?

[Lukin] Who knows? Moscow is full of intrigue. The same thing happens in Rome, does it not?

[Sergi] I cannot say you are wrong.

[Lukin] As a Foreign Ministry official, I cannot comment on the rumors. As you can see, I am here, still doing my job. Another thing is that I have decided to take part in the election campaign. I think that all my experience could be useful to the new parliament.

[Sergi] Does that decision fit in with your functions as an ambassador? You have chosen an opposition bloc.

[Lukin] I will not say. There are two broad ranges in the political lineup. The "bloc" I have joined, and which has attracted three names (Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Yury Boldyrev, and Lukin) is part of the democratic lineup.

[Sergi] I do not doubt it...

[Lukin] ... and I would say that, at local level, there is an agreement among the various blocs fighting for market reform and democratic change on single candidates in uninominal constituencies. What I can tell you is that I do not like any type of radicalism.

[Sergi] What about the ideas supported by Burbulis (former secretary of state—L'UNITA editor's note)?

[Lukin] In a revolutionary and reformist movement there is always a fringe consisting of people who have not made the grade in their profession and want to bypass civilized methods so they can get to the top quickly. These people usually advance ideas like: Let us destroy the current civilization and create a new, more beautiful one. And let us do it quickly and abruptly, bypassing civilized methods and history. They are doing what Mayakovski said: Let us bypass the horse of history. However, I do not intend to deceive or cheat my destiny or career. I repeat: Let us take action within the context of history and society by seeking to improve it. We are not pure opposition; we too have our differences about how to implement change. We are joined by Yegor Yakovlev, who could be said to embody the onset of democratic reform. In short, we are not just another democratic bloc; we are "the" democratic bloc. And we are concerned—perhaps more than the others—that change should come about using peaceful and democratic methods, and without bloodshed.

[Sergi] But Yavlinsky is taking a hardline opposition stance.

[Lukin] Being part of an electoral bloc does not rule out differences in approach. Each person has his or her own temperament. Yavlinsky, for example, is young, energetic, and a little sharp. I, on the other hand, am more experienced. Here we say that there is unity in diversity.

[Sergi] You were a mediator, albeit a critical one, at the Congress of Deputies in December 1992. Did you also have an opportunity to mediate during October's events around the White House?

[Lukin] Yes, and I feel personally at fault. There were insufficient forces, and the convictions and intellectual resources were insufficient to reach a compromise. I am firmly against revolutions and firmly in favor of compromise. We have had too much radicalism. Russia is too big a ship to engage in these types of maneuvers, with millions of people being thrown into the water.

[Sergi] You are opposed to radicalism. Is that what you do not like about certain actions taken by the leadership?

[Lukin] I am well disposed toward, say, Yegor Gaydar. However, in the Democratic Russia movement in particular, there are people who—for the sake of the country's "happiness"—would sacrifice the country itself. That is very dangerous. It will not have gone unnoticed that those involved in the Russia's Choice movement have chosen Peter I on horseback as their symbol. They are well aware of who Peter I was: He implemented reforms using extremely violent methods.

[Sergi] As ambassador, how did you report events to the U.S. Administration on 21 September, the day of the decree dissolving parliament, and then later, on 4 October, at the time of the assault?

[Lukin] I am the ambassador and I therefore take the official line. I would have to resign if I were against it. That is what I truly think. I am perfectly aware that the president's act was not written in the existing Constitution, but it had become impossible to carry on. I understood his decree. In addition, we did everything we could to avoid violence. Once again, our generation was unable to avoid spilling blood, although I do not think it was totally inevitable.

[Sergi] Did Washington request an explanation on the day of the assault?

[Lukin] The United States felt that the decisions made were inevitable after the "other side" began the armed revolt. However, the U.S. Administration then said that its support was not unconditional, but was linked to respect of the democratic rules and free elections. I do not see anything illogical in that. This must be seen as a viewpoint, not as an attempt to direct us. If the United States wanted to direct our path, then that would obviously be unacceptable from the viewpoint of our dignity. It would also be completely fruitless. The United States understands that.

[Sergi] As a candidate, do you think that the conditions for free elections have already been met?

[Lukin] The campaign has not started yet. I am concerned about the rules constantly changing and the lack of clarity over the Constitution. I would prefer it if, instead of a referendum, there were a debate in the new parliament first. I am also concerned about the extremely short amount of time granted for gathering signatures: 100,000 in the course of a week, and in no fewer than seven regions.

[Sergi] Can you explain how things stand with regard to NATO's offers to Russia?

[Lukin] I think it is completely natural. The world has changed and NATO has changed, too. So, all in all, it is quite normal. However, this is part of the complex problem of creating a new security system in Europe. It is primarily a problem for NATO, and for its relations with the CSCE and the Council of Europe. There is also the question of the pace of expansion. It seems to me that people want to do a little bit at a time: first one country joining, then another, with Russia hanging back until later. This could cause serious mistrust, and could lead to a special sort of national psychosis and a chauvinistic movement.

[Sergi] Are you talking about membership for Hungary, Poland, etc.?

[Lukin] You see, I would feel uneasy: those countries first, and not Russia? This is a consideration linked to national security problems because, in the world of real politics, it is not a question of a "good" bloc and a "bad" bloc. The point is that this bloc will include neighboring countries with whom we have traditionally had difficult relations. Why should they be in it and not us? This bloc might be good today but not tomorrow. If we are concerned for European security, we must not forget that there could be a return to bipolar politics. It is easy for mistrust, worries, fears, and false perceptions to arise.

[Sergi] Has the United States understood this?

[Lukin] This problem exists in its political analysis. Our dialogue with the United States is quite fruitful. It is not a question of whether we should be partners, but of what form that partnership should take. That is the problem that has to be addressed when discussing new members joining NATO.

[Sergi] Will everything be resolved at the January summit between Yeltsin and Clinton?

[Lukin] Intense talks are under way, but I have the feeling that there is no hurry either on the U.S.' or Europe's part.

[Sergi] What issues will be discussed at the summit?

[Lukin] Oh! January is still quite a way off. There will be a lot of work to do: from domestic problems in both countries—for even the United States has its troubles, does it not?—to bilateral relations in the area of investments. I am talking about investments in Russia. There is also the matter of security and nonproliferation, and here I am thinking of Ukraine.

[Sergi] In what sense?

[Lukin] In the sense that the Lisbon agreements have not been respected. Ukraine will not allow Russian specialists, whose job it is to monitor nuclear missiles, to enter the country. This is a problem that certainly concerns Europeans. One Chernobyl was more than enough. The experts say that unless we provide safeguards in the near future...

[Sergi] Is there a real danger?

[Lukin] Nuclear arms must receive constant maintenance. For the time being, however, Russian experts are not being given access, even though Kiev does not have the resources to maintain the arms. That is dangerous.

Belarus' Zalomay Holds Talks With Shokhin

LD2210205793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The new ruble zone agreement extended to a number of bilateral accords concluded by Russia's Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and his Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Zalomay on Thursday. The document was signed by Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in September.

As Shokhin has explained, an understanding was reached with Belarus to eliminate certain differences in that part of Belarusian legislature which relates to fiscal matters. The Belarusian parliament will debate the issue on November 9. The sides also agreed on the criteria to determine the two countries' readiness for monetary integration.

Shokhin emphasized that unlike the other countries entering the new ruble zone, Belarus had its intermediate currency, which made it possible to conform legislations without "haste and strain." Meanwhile, the other states are facing the threat of an early removal from circulation of the old-style banknotes, issued in 1961- 1992.

Shokhin reminded journalists that the new ruble zone plan would go through several stages, including its ratification by national parliaments and the entry of appropriate amendments in national laws, the unification of fiscal policies, and the equation of a number of economic indicators and exchange rates.

Asked by an Interfax reporter whether such CIS economic integration matched the election platform of the Russian Unity and Concord Party (led by Sergey Shakhray), one of whose election candidates is Aleksandr Shokhin, the vice-premier answered yes.

However, he stressed that while campaigning for "the restoration of economic ties across the former USSR and above all the CIS, the party is far from advocating the re-creation of the USSR." "This process should involve each state and be aimed at moulding new relations."

Government Urges Karabakh To Halt Offensive in Azerbaijan

LD2510185393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1718 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Russia has called on the Nagorno-Karabakh forces to stop their offensive and withdraw to the initial positions. The statement made on Monday followed a violation of the ceasefire and escalation of hostilities in the war zone.

The Nagorno-Karabakh offensive in the southwest of Azerbaijan means further escalation of the conflict which could have catastrophic consequences for several dozen thousand new Azerbaijani refugees on the eve of the winter, the statement said.

Concern Voiced Over Offensive

LD2510201793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1814 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Russia has called on the Nagorno-Karabakh forces to stop their offensive and withdraw to the initial positions.

The statement made on Monday followed a violation of the ceasefire and escalation of hostilities in the war zone.

After a continuous lull on Nagorno-Karabakh fronts weapons began speaking again. Of special concern is the violation of the temporary ceasefire concluded between Azerbaijan and Nagorno- Karabakh for a period up to November 5, 1993, the statement said.

"Despite the continuous efforts by the Russian mediator, the sides could not or did not want to draw a clear-cut line of engagement and failed to fulfil their obligations to clear it of any uncontrollable units. No mechanism of communication between the two sides has been worked out in the event of any violation," the statement read.

The Nagorno-Karabakh offensive has cut off densely populated areas of Azerbaijan and led to the occupation of villages which can also become subject to plunder and destruction, the document said. It warned that the Nagorno-Karabakh offensive in the southwest of Azerbaijan means further escalation of the conflict which could have catastrophic consequences for several dozen thousand new Azerbaijani refugees on the eve of the winter.

Chernomyrdin, Tajikistan's Abdullodzhanov Meet

LD2210202393 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] A meeting between Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation took place in Moscow.

Practical measures on rapprochement of the monetary systems of the two states was discussed and the results of the activities of the working groups have been summed up in the course of the meeting. The problems of further integration of the economies of Tajikistan and Russia and creation of joint groups on organizing joint production programs and intentions had a special place at the meeting. Issues pertaining to additional allocation of fuel and lubricants, which are necessary for the successful completion in Tajikistan of harvesting the cotton and other agricultural crops, were worked out.

The participants in the meeting paid great attention to interrelations on making calculations and documents [word indistinct] fuel and lubricants in the republic.

Muhtoshev and Yeliseyev, deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan and Nasriddinov, a plenipotentiary representative of Tajikistan to the Russian Federation were present at the meeting, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Results of Military Sweep at Tajik Border Posts Reported

LD2510183593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1406 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—The second stage of a military operation to rid the republic's territory of local partisans and Afghan mojahedin has begun in Tajikistan. The operation, which is a joint one by government forces and Russian servicemen, is being conducted in the rear of the 11th, 12th, and 13th border posts of the Moskovskiy detachment of Russian border troops. Arms and ammunition caches have already been discovered as a result of the sweep. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this today by the Russian border guards' press office.

According to the same source, the recent report about the destruction of a large grouping of partisans and mojahedin on the Sarigor plateau was premature. Information about enemy losses is still being collected.

Latvian Talks Marked by 'Constructive Spirit'

LD2210214693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1422 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladmir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 22 TASS—"The latest round of talks between the state delegations of Russia and Latvia, held in Moscow from October 18-20, was marked by a constructive spirit", head of the Information and Press Directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

"The sides were able to agree on several articles of the draft treaty pertaining to the terms, deadlines, and procedure of the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvian territory and their legal status during the pull-out, as well as on draft agreements guaranteeing the social protection of the withdrawing servicemen and military pensioners and their families, now residing in Latvia. Nevertheless, such key issues as the deadline for the withdrawal of troops, the future of strategic installations on Latvian territory, property matters and mutual settlements have remained unresolved, although "definite positive shifts" are appearing here, too, the diplomat said.

Karasin stated also that the sides have reached final accord on a draft agreement between the Russian Federation and the Latvian Republic on mutual trips of citizens. They have also, on the whole, reached accord on draft agreements relating to transport matters, air and motor serevices, and cargo shipping.

"The next round of the negotiations," Karasin said, "is scheduled to be held in Jurmala from November 15-17."

Problems in Baltic Fleet Viewed

PM2510112593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Vladimir Maryukha and Valeriy Gromak: "Baltic: Enough Sea for Everyone but Its Waters Should Not Divide States but Unite Them"]

[Text] Over its entire history the oldest of the Russian fleets—the Baltic fleet—has frequently experienced rises and falls, reorganizations and redeployments, but all this time it has conscientiously kept open the window on Europe cut back at the time of Peter the Great. This window (and not through the Baltic Fleet's fault) has now narrowed to the dimensions of a peephole for Russia. After all, from once having virtually the entire Eastern seaboard of the Baltic, in the new political and geographical realities Russia has left only a small plot of land in Kaliningrad Oblast and the "arc" of the Gulf of Finland, and the new owners of the ports from Klajpeda to Tallinn are now "playing" against Russia, dictating an excessive payment for sea shipments and depriving it of the opportunity of keeping a military fleet here under normal conditions to defend economic and strategic interests, but everything in the right order.

Who's Who in the Baltic Sea

It is not only the interests of the nine states which have an outlet on its shores which are focused in the shallow Baltic (the total volume of its water is approximately equal to Lake Baykal), but it is this "nine" which determines the future of the region today within the framework of the "Baltic Peoples" program. It is true that each country has a vocal strength far from equal to that of others. Whereas previously the Soviet Union with Poland and the GDR, its partners in the Warsaw Pact, could maintain an approximate balance of interests, nowadays Russia's interests are ranked fifth (or even lower).

It is not only a question of the higher degree of economic development of Germany, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark, and the orientation of Poland and the new Baltic States toward them. Taken together and separately the naval forces of these countries tilt the scales against our Baltic Fleet and that means the military-political factor is added to the economic factor. The temptation of strong-arm diktat, so to speak, appears, and although in the countries of the Baltic region there is talk of not seeking enemies but pooling efforts to resolve common problems (primarily ecological problems), the interests of the partners take shape with a consideration for their defense by power structures at sea.

Moreover, behind the talk of a sensible balance of fleets there lies the blatant buildup of naval forces.

The fleet of the united Germany is the most graphic example. It would appear to be in the process of being reduced 50 percent and gradually ridding itself of the GDR's naval property but it is not becoming weaker—the transition from quantity to quality is being strictly adhered to. Particularly in the improvement of the

submarines already hard to detect even in the shallow Baltic waters—the 18 type 206 and 206A submarines will be replaced by 12 type 212 submarines.

Sweden has a quite well equipped fleet which is being improved and bears little relation to the principles of its declared neutrality, and the more than 40-year search for Soviet and then Russian submarines in the Swedish fjords, supporting the myth of the Russian military threat, justifies the constant updating of these forces. Even without such justifications Denmark, which closes outlets from the Baltic to the North Sea, is improving its naval forces in a planned manner. Its 10-year-old frigates of the Niels Juel class and the patrol frigates developed on their basis are only slightly inferior to Germany's sophisticated frigates of the nineties.

Of course, the naval forces of the former Union's Baltic republics bear no comparison with these fleets. In the best position is Latvia, which has been able to "extract" from its new partners a coast guard ship (from Sweden), two trawlers (from the FRG bundesmarine), and three missile cutters (once built in the USSR for the GDR). Lithuania has its hopes pinned only on the Baltic Fleet, which has already handed over two small ASW ships which have been upgraded to frigates. The plans for further cooperation (apartments for the Baltic Fleet sailors, ships for the Lithuanians) include the acquisition of two missile carrying cutters from the Baltic Fleet. The embryonic Estonian navy is also geared toward property which the Baltic Fleet will be unable to take out of the Tallinn naval base and training center in Paldiski.

The forces of the Polish and Finnish navies, which even in the past did not play such an important role, like their counterparts and rivals in the sea theater are also hard to compare. But while Poland, which used to be geared toward the USSR in the development of its naval forces is experiencing serious difficulties in waiting for the "kiss of life" from NATO, the finnish naval forces are confidently guaranteeing the security of their sea borders and the protection of the shipping and fishing zone.

The Baltic Fleet We Have Lost

October 1917 locked the Baltic seamen in Kronshtadt, depriving them of a considerable proportion of their ships and virtually all their dominant positions in the Baltic, including the naval bases constructed with Russian funds in Finland, Latvia, and Estonia. History has repeated itself and the Baltic Fleet naval bases and stations improved using the money of taxpayers of the entire former Union in the three republics which have now become sovereign have again found themselves outside Russia. Because of the circumstances which have taken shape Baltiysk has remained the only naval base in the South Baltic and the fleet's entire ship contingent is concentrated here. As for the submarines, there is again a real threat, as there was during the Great Patriotic War, that they will be locked inside the Gulf of Finland. The submariners are leaving Liepaja for Leningrad Oblast for what are essentially unprepared positions.

It is true that ambassador Sergey Zotov, who heads the Russian delegation at the interstate talks with Latvia, has stated that he is unswerving in his position that the Baltic submariners should remain in Liepaja for another five to six years—at present there is nowhere to withdraw them to.

The Baltic Fleet station in Tallinn is to be retained until the end of 1994 and no longer. In Klajpeda, where the third guards division of the Baltic Fleet coastal defense is stationed, a Lithuanian naval base is already operating. The fleet's already weak ship repair base has suffered an almost knockout blow. The Baltic Fleet can now count only on the Kaliningrad Yantar ship repair plant, which deals primarily not in repair but in ship building, and the Kronshtadt naval plant. Russia's loss of the "civilian" ports in the Baltic countries has struck the military fleet from the other hand—the question of erecting a commercial terminal in the region of the previously secret Baltiysk is at the stage of positive resolution.

A separate factor is the shortage of fuel, deck gear, spare parts, and the artificially complicated transit of fleet materiel via several new borders. In addition there is the reluctance of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to pay for the Baltic seamen's servicing of navigation equipment in their waters. On the other hand for some reason the Baltic Fleet must pay for obsolete vessels and ships which are causing damage to the ecology because of their delayed dismantling for scrap metal. In writing off old ships the Baltic seamen can only dream of new ones. So far they are having to "run in" for other fleets the currently rare newly built ships from plants in St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad.

"We Do Not Draw Image of a Specific Enemy"

"The meetings at sea between our ships and the ships of the navies of the region's countries are now of a friendly nature," Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral Vladimir Yegorov believes.

Indeed, for the first time in all postwar history a ship of the Baltic Fleet, the Bditelnyy escort ship, has been invited to the "Baltops-93" NATO exercises. The Kiel Canal, which reduces the journey to the North Sea, has been opened to Russian seamen. But this must be seen not to much as respect for the strength of the Baltic Fleet as encouragement of its weakness. First, for observing the principle of non-nuclearity. Second, for the plan-governed reduction (by 40 percent of the 1 January 1992 level and a threefold reduction of the number of ships). Third, for the readiness to take part in the elimination of the thoughtless activity of the allies in the anti-Hitler coalition, which after the war sank in Baltic waters chemical weapons whose effect on the environment is now already about to be triggered.

In turn the Baltic Fleet and the Navy General Staff in Moscow are deliberately seeking to ensure that the sphere of our openness is not narrowed, within sensible limits, of course. A colossal amount of work has been done to normalize naval relations with Sweden and naval contacts are being expanded with Germany. Nor is

the Russian side displaying arrogance with regard to the Lithuanian and Latvian navies.

"The solution of any questions affecting the interests or all or most of the region's countries, including problems of security, can only be collective," Admiral Vladimir Yegorov asserts. "The time of antagonisms in mutual relations between Russia and other states has long passed."

This is all the more important here in the Baltic, which first united Russia with Europe and now remains one of the main routes in the development of the "Yantar" free economic zone and the entire Russian Northwest and regions more remote from the sea. The small sea's big problems require far from traditional solutions and are not exhausted by merely complaining about the lack of funds.

Chinese Commander in Vladivostok for Border Talks

LD2610061493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0250 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok, 26 Oct—Under an agreement reached previously between the Russian and Chinese border departments, a delegation of the PRC border guard led by Major General Zhou Zaikang, commander of the Jilin Province Military District, has arrived in Vladivostok. During the visit there will be examination of questions of the further development of Russian-Chinese border relations and their settlement in the interests of both countries.

Argentine Defense Minister Interviewed

PM2510123593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Oct 93 p 7

[Interview with Argentine Minister of National Defense Oscar Camilion by special correspondent Sergey Zavorotnyy in Buenos Aires; date not given: "General Awaited in Argentina"]

[Text] Buenos Aires—Oscar Camilion, the energetic new Argentine Minister of National Defense, is athletic looking and a civilian. Oscar Camilion enjoys the reputation of an experienced politician, and is never lost for words. The recently arrived British ambassador to Buenos Aires had scarcely had the opportunity to point out that Her Majesty's Government will not permit Argentina to rearm, when he immediately came up against an ironic comment from the min ster: I do not see anything bad in Argentina rearming when Britain is refusing to lift the arms embargo against it.

Well actually, might Russia be able to help Argentina here, as Argentina in its time helped the former Soviet Union with grain during the blockade which U.S. President Jimmy Carter imposed? You must agree that we certainly do have plenty of military hardware. It was with this question that our interview with Argentine Defense Minister Oscar Camilion began.

[Camilion] We are interested in establishing permanent military contacts with your country. We have already signed agreements on scientific and technical cooperation with Russia and we would like to broaden the framework of the agreements which have been reached. We have a new proposal for Grachev in this respect. As for the purchase of new armaments, unfortunately Russia will hardly be able to assist us because to the technical specifications of the equipment in our armory differ from yours. Furthermore our finances are fairly limited.

[Zavorotnyy] The Russian defense minister's planned visit to your country did not please everyone in your country. There were critics even within the cabinet of ministers. What is your attitude to the Russian defense minister possibly making a visit?

[Camilion] Grachev's visit, as is known, did not take place because he was busy with domestic matters. Our invitation still remains open, and I hope that your minister will visit Argentina.

[Zavorotnyy] As far as I know, the United States requested Argentina to send soldiers to Haiti to help the UN forces supervise implementation of the agreement to restore to power to the lawful president, Aristide. Will Argentina agree to this?

[Camilion] Not under any circumstances. We will never agree to our soldiers carrying out the role of a restraining force in Haiti. Argentina supported the naval blockade of Haiti imposed in accordance with a decision of the UN Security Council, and we will send two of our warships to the shores of this country. The guard on the Argentinian Embassy in Haitian capital will also be strengthened.

[Zavorotnyy] We have recently heard much talk about Argentina's plans to join NATO. Are they real?

[Camilion] Argentina has not intended nor does it intend to become a member of the North Atlantic Alliance. At one time we did, indeed, raise the question of our obtaining the status of an observer in NATO. As we know, there is no provision in this organization's charter for observers, therefore the question died a natural death. Today we are interested in establishing close relations with the military organization of the European countries, the United States, and Canada. Argentina seeks to establish both military and political cooperation, as our country, like others in the world, is concerned about creating a reliable system of global and regional security.

Political Issues

Edict, Statute on Local Power Published

PM2610113393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Edict No. 1723 of the Russian Federation President "On the Basic Principles for the Organization of State Power in Components of the Russian Federation," signed by Russian President B. Yeltsin and dated 22 October 1993; followed by a Statute "On the Basic Principles for the Organization and Activity of Organs of State Power in the Krays, Oblasts, Cities of Federal Status, the Autonomous Oblast, and Autonomous Okrugs of the Russian Federation for the Duration of Stage-By-Stage Constitutional Reform"]

[Text] Edict of the Russian Federation President "On the Basic Principles for the Organization of State Power in Components of the Russian Federation"

With a view to strengthening the foundations of people's rule and ensuring the stage-by-stage constitutional reform of organs of state power in components of the Russian Federation, I decree:

1. That the appended Statute on the Basic Principles for the Organization and Activity of Organs of State Power in the Krays, Oblasts, Cities of Federal Status, the Autonomous Oblast, and Autonomous Okrugs of the Russian Federation for the Duration of Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform be ratified.

2. That it be established that the Law of the Russian Federation "On the Kray and Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies and the Kray and Oblast Administration" and other legislative acts be applied insofar as they do not contravene this edict.

3. That elections to representative (legislative) organs of state power in krays, oblasts, cities of federal status, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs of the Russian Federation be held during the period December 1993 through March 1994.

4. That republics within the Russian Federation be recommended to implement reform of the organs of state power with consideration for the provisions of this edict.

5. That the Edict of the Russian Federation President "On the Basic Principles for the Organization of State Power in Components of the Russian Federation" be submitted for the consideration of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

6. That this edict come into force as soon as it is signed.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 22 October 1993

Statute on the Basic Principles for the Organization and Activity of Organs of State Power in the Krays, Oblasts, Cities of Federal Status, Autonomous Oblast, and Autonomous Okrugs of the Russian Federation for the Duration of Stage-By-Stage Constitutional Reform

1. In accordance with the foundations of the constitutional system, state power in the krays, oblasts, cities of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs of the Russian Federation is exercised by organs of representative (legislative) and executive power.

The representative (legislative) organs of state power of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug (assembly, duma, etc.) is elected by the population on the basis of universal direct equal suffrage by secret ballot and performs its activity on a permanent basis.

2. The representative (legislative) organ of state power of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug is elected with a membership of no more than 50 deputies (representatives).

The name of the organ of representative power and the number of its deputies (representatives), including those working on a permanent paid basis, is decided by the organs of state power of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug autonomously with consideration for historical, national, and other conditions and traditions.

3. The representative (legislative) organ of state power of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug is elected for a two-year term.

4. Within the limits of their powers, the representative (legislative) organs of state power of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug exercise legal (legislative) regulation on questions of the administration of the respective kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug, as well as on questions of the joint administration of federal organs of state power of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the components of the Russian Federation.

Legal (legislative) acts of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug adopted on questions of joint administration cannot contravene federal laws, edicts of the Russian Federation president, and decrees of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation. In the event of their contravening federal laws, edicts of the Russian Federation president, and decrees of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, the federal legislation operates.

Legal (legislative) acts of a normative nature adopted by representative (legislative) organs of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug are conveyed by these organs within the timeframes prescribed by them to the head of the administration (government) for signing. The head of the administration (government) signs and promulgates legal (legislative) acts within the timeframes stipulated by representative (legislative) organs from the day of receipt of the acts.

Legal (legislative) acts adopted by representative (legislative) organs of components of the Russian Federation can be returned by the head of the administration (government) for further consideration before the expiry of the timeframe prescribed for signing and promulgation. If, on further consideration, the legal (legislative) act is adopted by no less than two-thirds of the total membership of the representative (legislative) organ of the component of the Russian Federation, the head of the administration (government) is obliged to sign it within the timeframe prescribed by the representative (legislative) organ.

5. The representative (legislative) organ of the component of the Russian Federation examines and ratifies the budget of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug on the submission of the administration (government) of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug.

Legal (legislative) acts on the introduction or abolition of taxes, exemption from payment of taxes, and changes in the financial obligations of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug, as well as other legal acts envisaging expenditure covered by the budget of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug, are adopted on the submission of or given the existence of a favorable decision from the administration (government) of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, or autonomous okrug.

6. Representative (legislative) organs of state power of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug monitor the implementation of the legal (legislative) acts that they adopt, the implementation of the budget, and the disposal (alienation) of property assigned to the ownership of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug.

7. In order to carry out normative (lawmaking) activity, representative (legislative) organs of state power in the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug can set up an apparatus and recruit specialists on a contract or other compensatory basis to perform and carry out their prescribed functions.

8. The organ of executive power in the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug is the administration (government) of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, or autonomous okrug.

The head of the corresponding administration (government) directs the activity of the administration (government) of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug.

The name of the organ of state power of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug (administration, government, etc.) and its head is decided by the corresponding representative (legislative) organ of the component of the Russian Federation, with consideration for historical, national, and other conditions and traditions.

9. The composition of the administration (government) of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug is the responsibility of the head of the corresponding administration (government).

10. The administration (government) of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug:

formulates the budget and submits it for ratification to the representative (legislative) organ of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug and ensures its implementation;

disposes of and manages property assigned to the ownership of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug;

formulates and implements programs in the sphere of management of the economy, culture, and social policy;

implements measures to safeguard legality and the rights and freedoms of citizens, protect property and public order, and combat crime;

adopts legal acts (decrees, directives) within the limits of its competence;

exercises other executive-administrative functions and powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, edicts of the Russian Federation president, decisions of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, and legal (legislative) acts of representative (legislative) organs of the kray, oblast, city of federal status, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrug.

Filatov Discusses Progress on Draft Constitution

PM2610093593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Lyubov Tsukanova report: "Work on Text of Future Constitution in Progress"]

[Text] The draft of the new Russian Federation Constitution will be ready by the scheduled date—3 November, to be precise. Sergey Filatov, director of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration, is certain of this. In his opinion, the drafting commission, which is at work even now, consists of top-class jurists—including jurists representing Russia's republics, krays, and oblasts—and it will be able to resolve all the contentious issues in the time remaining.

The most difficult articles in terms of coordination are those dealing, first of all, with the powers of federal organs of power, and second, with demarcating areas of competence between components of the Federation and the federal authorities. Regarding the first issue, Sergey Filatov said, an agreed decision has been reached. Among other things, the system of interrelations among the president, the government, and the State Duma with

regard to appointing the prime minister has been simplified. The appointment will be made by the president in coordination with the State Duma. The system for dissolving the State Duma is being simplified accordingly. Sergey Filatov believes that this decision, which used to provoke plenty of arguments, was adopted not without the influence of the recent tragic events in Moscow. The system for appointing and dismissing ministers remains unchanged in the draft: This is done by the president on the proposal of the prime minister.

The proposal for a "radical" separation of the areas of competence of the two chambers (the Federation Council will examine political and cadre issues while the State Duma will deal exclusively with legislation) has not made any headway because the removal of the State Duma from deciding cadre issues does not tie in with its areas of competence in the budget and taxation spheres.

Regarding the demarcation of powers between the components of the Federation and the federal authorities, and the parity of the components of the Federation, this is a more difficult problem. In reply to a question from your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, the director of the presidential administration noted that Article 5 of the draft clearly indicates the difference between Russian Federation constituent republics and Russian Federation krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations. There is basically one difference: A republic (as the Federation Treaty notes) has its own constitution and legislation, whereas krays, oblasts, etc., have a charter [ustav] and legislation. In their relations with the federal organs of power all components of the Federation are equal.

For the time being there is no unanimity on whether the Federation Treaty should be incorporated in the Constitution, because in our country the Federation Treaty is a name given to three different documents on the demarcation of terms of reference and powers between the federal organs of power and the organs of power of the components of the Federation. The inclusion of these treaties in the Constitution will considerably complicate the procedure for amending them, among other things. Moreover, the existing differences in the components' rights are at variance with the principle of their equality enshrined in the draft Constitution. Sergey Filatov believes that, despite the existing disagreements on this issue, a united position can be reached.

Unless the work falls behind schedule, the finished draft will be submitted to the president at the beginning of November.

Sobchak Views Options if People Reject Draft Constitution

LD2510193893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomicheva]

[Text] St. Petersburg October 25 TASS—Coordinator of the public chamber of the Constitutional Assembly Anatoliy Sobchak believes it will be necessary to elect a special assembly to adopt a new Russian constitution if it is voted down at the upcoming referendum in December.

"If voters at the upcoming polls reject the draft constitution there will remain only one way—to elect a founding assembly which will adopt a new constitution", he told TASS on Monday [25 October].

Sobchak said that the final version of the draft is to be published not later than November 12, one month before the referendum. He added that all concessions made under the pressure of the former conservative Russian parliament had been deleted from the draft.

Sobchak said that his chamber insisted to revise the provision that all Russian republics are sovereign states in contrast to other regions and territories. "There should be no compromise, nobody should have any advantages over any subject (of the federation)", he stressed.

Dwelling on the division of authorities, Sobchak said that "we strive that the parliament becomes the guarantor of democracy and the source of legislation, that the president becomes the head of state and the guarantor of reforms. The government has to occupy an independent place in reform organisation and implement the adopted legislation".

Acting Court Head Views Constitution

LD2510174393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Report by correspondent Yelena Sandemirskaya]

[Text] The first thing that Nikolay Vitruk, acting chairman of the Constitutional Court, said in an exclusive interview with our news service was that he has no reliable information on how the the process of creating a new constitution for the Russian Federation is proceeding. He has to learn about it from the media. Nonetheless, he said that according to his information, changes to the new constitution will concern the highest federal authorities, the structure of the Russian Federation, and the judiciary.

Nikolay Vitruk expressed particular concern about the possible dissolution of the Constitutional Court and its replacement by a collegium under the Russian Supreme Court. This would not be an independent body measuring the actions of president and parliament against the constitution, but a Supreme Court commission that would be unlikely to have such a wide-ranging remit as the Constitutional Court.

In Nikolay Vitruk's opinion, there might also be changes to the structure of the Russian Federation. For example, in the draft constitution, republics within Russia are called not sovereign states but members of the federation, although they do retain their right to their own emblem of state, flag, and national anthem.

Nikolay Vitruk said that he will be able to familiariz himself with the draft of the new constitution in early November. Despite all expectations, he declined to claim that the new draft will differ radically from the previous one.

Poltoranin Comments on Censorship

LD2510214393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The leader of the Federal Information Center, Mikhail Poltoranin, has said that censorship of the media has been canceled by a presidential instruction. He made the statement on Monday [25 October] addressing the roundtable discussions on freedom of speech and press that held in the Moscow International Press Center.

Poltoranin flatly opposed the statement by the Freedom Forum president, founder of the "U.S.A. today" newspaper, Allan Neurath, who claimed at the conference that two years ago Boris Yeltsin, the people of Russia and the media passed the democracy exam with distinction. However, today Yeltsin's actions aimed against the media are absolutely unacceptable to a democratic government, said Neurath. To back up his statement, he referred to the introduction of censorship, the closure of some newspapers, attempts to dismiss editors-in-chief and banning of certain TV programs.

Poltoranin also said that Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin had actually ordered censorship a week before the October revolt. Poltoranin said that he had flatly opposed the decree and, following heated argument with other ministers which cost him his prestige, the document was submitted to be signed by the president.

However, it is unclear so far who ordered censorship. Poltoranin believes the decision was taken by the government after power structures were slow in their work and feared the truth would come to the surface.

Poltoranin said that the president not only canceled censorship but, two days ago, ordered that the General Prosecutor's Office investigate cases of groundless closure of newspapers, the dismissals of editors-in-chief of independent periodicals. Poltoranin said the closed newspapers, apart from fascist ones, would come out again shortly.

He said he suggested that Boris Yeltsin create a temporary state council involving representatives of the constructive opposition that, before the elections to the State Duma, could help the president to lead the country along a steady course. He said a temporary state council must, while there is no parliament, carry out control functions preventing members or even groups within the government take steps from the position of majority.

TV Director Hits Arbitrary Schedule Changes

PM3110153093 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 3

[Interview with Valentina Rogova, Russian Television director, under the "Russian Television Review" rubric by Anri Vartanov; place and date not given: "Valentina Rogova: Administration and Creativity are Inversely Proportional"]

[Text] Just a month after the Vesti program first went on air, an event which marked the birth of Russian Television [RTV], a program entitled "The 20th Century On and Off Screen" was shown. In this program viewers saw the facts, events, and people with which this turbulent an dramatic century is so rich. The program provided hitherto unknown information about the otherwise familiar, recalled and gave interesting details on the otherwise half forgotten, and brought subjects which had acquired the appearance of the mythical back down to earth.

Recently this interesting program has increasingly often "gone missing" from the airwaves. I learned with surprise that since September last year there have been 15 broadcasts of which I had managed to catch no more than three or four. This fate is very typical of many worthy programs, not just those of RTV. I wanted to investigate this phenomenon so I met with the program's director, Valentina Rogova.

The fact is, she said, that recently our program has not gone out once at its scheduled time. Whereas initially it went on air every fourth Saturday of the month, now God only knows what its broadcast time will be. It might go out in the evening, during the day, weekends, or weekdays. There are also considerable variations in program duration. Sometimes the program is ready for showing when someone rings the group two days before the broadcast and says on behalf of the scheduling service that it has to be cut by 5 minutes. That is what happened to the show entitled "Ladies of the Epoch," dedicated to Vivien Leigh. We had to ditch a whole episode on which the whole collective had worked hard throughout the night to get it ready. The format and integrity of the program were ruined, but that does not seem to bother anyone. Unfortunately at RTV they still do not have such concepts as broadcasting discipline.

[Vartanov] This is the malaise of our television service. It has been going on for decades. Although RTV does have programs which go out at a strictly defined time. "Without Retouching" and "Moment of Truth" go out Mondays; "Top Secret" and "Contrasts" appear Saturdays.

[Rogova] This is a case where the exception merely proves the rule. What is happening in the broadcasting network is mainly a game of leapfrog which is debated at virtually every emergency meeting held. But nothing is done about it. Our next program, called "The Name of the Smile is Audrey" focusing on the movie star A. Hepburn, is due to be shown at 1600 hours 10 days from

now (our conversation took place 13 October—A.V. note). But I am not at all certain that it will go out on schedule. Nor am I sure that they will not tell me to cut it to pieces because of the inertia of the program schedulers. This program is aimed at a large viewing audience and is full of rare footage which could well elude those who would like to see it.

[Vartanov] I am surprised that programs dedicated to movie stars are encountering such broadcasting difficulties. Movie shows always seemed to get the go-ahead....

[Rogova] "The 20th Century" is not a movie show at all. Even among the 15 broadcasts which went out last year there were some dedicated to the country's history or which discussed the inventors of the latest weapons or talked about poets. The distinguishing feature of our educational broadcast is that it is about the lives of outstanding people who have given substance to the history of the 20th century. The usual way of presenting that is through unique movie footage. But that is not the only way: For example, in our recent program entitled "The Muse of Two Poets," the script was based on photographs and drawings. Incidentally, it was due to an erroneous idea of the program's nature that we were forcibly transferred from "Artel," where we had been since we came into being, to the TPO [creative production association] of movie programs during the reorganization in summer. At the meeting where our fate was settled, the deputy leader of the company uttered the following colorful phrase. "'Artel'," he said, "is a flower bed from which the young and healthy flowers have to be plucked so as to adorn other creative associations." So we were plucked! The result was that "Artel," the pride of RTV, was cut to pieces and that things went downhill for those people who were thrown out along with it. After all, the TPO of movie programs does not have the capacity to produce such complex experimental programs as ours.

[Vartanov] What might the solution be?

[Rogova] We must go back to "Artel." Or be given the kind of autonomy that "Top Secret" has. If our group were increased slightly we could double our broadcasts. Experience shows that one show a fortnight is the optimum for a series like ours. We rely on our viewers and they need to hear our voice regularly. As for additional manpower, I can say that recently RTV has not lacked the resources to boost the administrative staff. The head of "Artel" has never had any deputies whereas the leader of the TPO now has three or four. One of them, incidentally, is now encroaching on the little office where our group works. This is the second time....

Lobov 3-4 Oct Attempt To Form Student Detachments 'Foiled'

PM2510160193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 3

[Svetlana Kirillova report: "Were Students Mobilized?"]

[Text] To all appearances, a plan for the mass mobilization of students for Moscow's trouble spots was foiled on the night of 3-4 October. On the evening of 3 October [Security Council Secretary] Lobov called the office of the chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Higher Education and requested the telephone numbers of the principals of Moscow's higher educational establishments and student hostels situated fairly close to the center. It was proposed to send detachments of students to Tverskaya and Krasnaya Presnya. The minister's aide used all his wits to stall, explaining a hundred times that students have no place in situations requiring intervention by OMON [special-purpose militia detachments] and Army subunits.

That night many principals themselves called the higher education minister's office and asked if help were needed. The first to call was the principal of Moscow's Jewish University. Some principals themselves went to Tverskaya and Krasnaya Presnya with the students.

Grachev Role in Aug 1991 Coup Attempt Raised at Trial

PM2510144193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Grachev Took Parliament Twice. But He Cannot Be Blamed for It"]

[Text] The indictment has been read out at the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] trial. At the same time even more interesting details are surfacing. For example, the troops sent to the White House and Ostankino on the orders of Yazov and Achalov were dispatched by none other than Pavel Grachev, who in August 1991 was commander of Airborne Troops. On the morning of 19 August he sent assault troops to Ostankino to defend this installation against "rampaging crowds." The 2d Ryazan Regiment headed by Aleksandr Lebed arrived at the White House, again on Grachev's orders. Admittedly, Grachev soon gave an order to withdraw the regiment to a safe place, since it was "blocked in by people" and had lost its combat effectiveness. The soldiers had to withdraw urgently to a vacant construction lot in order to regroup.

All this was done, on Yazov's instructions, to ensure that "everything functioned that was supposed to function." It is true, as the indictment indicates, that this task was carried out fairly incoherently. "When you receive commands and at the same time nothing is said, it is difficult to make decisions," the witness Grachev testified to the investigation. Bearing in mind that Grachev was only carrying out orders and was not party to the conspiracy, the investigation decided to discontinue criminal proceedings against him.

The investigation has also established that during their preparations for the conspiracy the SCSE members "organized a hard drinking session" attended by

Yanayev, Plekhanov, and Pavlov. According to the testimony of staffers at the Kremlin polyclinic, "on the morning of 19 August Pavlov was diagnosed as being high on liquor."

Let us add for our own part that there was nothing surprising about Gennadiy Yanayev's peculiar state: After all, on being elected to the post of vice president he told the Supreme Soviet that he was "suffering all the ailments that a real man should suffer from."

Election Issues

Ryabov Holds News Conference on Election Campaign

LD2610110193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1039 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Chairman of Russia's Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov told a press conference here today that President Boris Yeltsin's decision permitting members of the executive to wear two hats (by combining their work with membership of the fresh parliament) may be revised.

Ryabov said the president's decrees and ordinances concerning the preparation and holding of the elections to the Federal Assembly were provisional in character. He stressed that the draft new constitution, which will be put to a country-wide public vote on December 12, should contain fundamental provisions concerning the formation of the Federal Assembly in the future.

Ryabov said that the Central Electoral Commission has submitted to the presidential staff a draft regulation on providing air time on an equal basis to all candidates and the parties and organizations which back them. He noted that none of the voters' associations will be permitted to "buy up" all the time allocated to the runners in these elections by the electronic media. The commission chairman stressed that time on the air will be allocated to voters' associations by state-owned television and radio broadcasting stations from November 20.

As concerns the spending of state resources earmarked for the election campaign and elections proper, Nikolay Ryabov said 170 billion roubles will be spent as targeted. A special department is being set up by the Central Electoral Commission to prevent any machinations with the funds.

Ryabov expressed confidence that the elections campaign will proceed in strict accordance with the schedule worked out by the Central Electoral Commission, a very busy but practical schedule.

Along with this, he said that some of the voters' associations are dragging feet and will probably fail to collect the required 100,000 signatures under their lists of nominees before November 1. He said the Central Electoral Commission was counting on the assistance from the local administration heads in this respect.

Ryabov warned against "incorrect" forms of agitation in favour of preferred candidates.

Electoral Commission Member Describes Election Blocs

LD2510231393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2040 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Interview with Central Electoral Committee member Valeriy Krasnyanskiy by correspondent Olga Omelyanyuk in Moscow; date not given; from the "Pre-Election Marathon" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Omelyanyuk] Hello. In a month and a bit, we will have to elect a new body: the state duma. Many parties and movements have already joined the pre-election combat. Our job is to explain all the intricacies involved. [passage omitted]

Tell me, how many blocs and parties for election to the state duma are there so far?

[Krasnyanskiy] Right. The Electoral Commission has just received certified copies of electoral lists for 18 electoral associations. So we are working on the basis of those now. Four more organizations are handing them in today. So that makes 22. The liberal democrats—the National Republican Party of Russia—that is another one. The August bloc is two parties—the Economic Freedom Party and the Constitutional Democrats. Then there is the Women of Russia political organization, which is proceeding independently, as is the Democratic Party of Russia and the Conservative Party. The Consolidation Party is separate. The Agrarian Party is standing alone. The Russian Christian Democratic Movement is also separate, as is the Constitutional Democratic Party.

Then, of the ones registered today, there is the Russia's Choice electoral association, including the Russia's Choice political movement itself. It existed before. Then there is the Democratic Russia Movement, the Democratic Initiative Party, and the Peasant's Party of Russia, all making up Russia's Choice. The top three in it are Gaydar, Ella Pamfilova, and Kovalev. [passage omitted]

Civic Union—in the name of stability, progress, and fairness—is also a bloc, and a big one. It includes the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, then the Russian Renewal Union, the Russian Social-Democratic Center, the Association of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the Trade Union of Timber Industries' Workers, the Trade Union of Construction Workers, and the Construction Materials Industry, as well as the War Veterans for Peace Movement. They have handed in a list of 270 people, and the top three there are Arkadiy Volskiy, Nikolay Bekh, the general director of KamAZ, and Vladislavlev.

The third bloc has an original name: Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin. That is the name.

[Omelyanyuk] By the surnames.

[Krasnyanskiy] Yes, by the leaders' surnames. This includes the Russian Christian-Democratic Union [New Democracy Party], then the National Republican Party of Russia, and the Social Democratic Party. We know the first three there. [laughs]

Then we have, separately, the Cedar Ecological Movement, the Russian Christian-Democratic Party standing alone, the Russian All-Peoples Union, the Russian Green Party [Rossiyskaya partiya zelenykh], and the Fatherland electoral association, which includes the Rebirth Union [Soyuz vozrozhdeniya] sociopolitical movement, the Womens' League [Zhenskaya liga] sociopolitical movement, the Socialist Workers' Party, as well as the Union of Cossacks, the Union of Oil Industry Workers, and the Russian Union of Workforces [Rossiyskiy soyuz trudovykh kollektivov]. There are 189 people on their list. The top three are Stepanov, Vartazarova, and Naumov. [passage omitted]

[Omelyanyuk] And what happens if a voter writes that he is voting against everybody?

[Krasnyanskiy] Of course, if the majority of those taking part in the voting react in this way to the party lists, it follows that we will have to hold the list registration again. [passage omitted]

You have to break the 5 percent barrier; then the mandates get shared out. Those 225 mandates will be shared out between those who broke the 5 percent barrier or more.

[Omelyanyuk] How much is 5 percent?

[Krasnyanskiy] Well, let us count it. We have 170 million voters. Take 5 percent, and what do we get? You have to get a little more than 5 million votes for your party. [figures as heard] [passage omitted]

Electoral Commission Presents Proposals on Mass Media Usage

LD2510180393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1144 GMT 25 Oct 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Oct—The Central Electoral Commission has presented President Boris Yeltsin with its proposals on the use of electronic mass media during the period of preparation for the elections to the Federal Assembly. This was reported to an ITAR- TASS correspondent today by Aleksandr Bukhvalov, head of the commission's press service.

He said that in particular the proposals envisage specific times at which appearances by election candidates or their supporters will be broadcast. "An accord in principle already exists on this score with the television and radio company heads Vyacheslav Bragin and Oleg Poptsov," Aleksandr Bukhvalov said. In addition, it is envisaged that an equal fee should be charged for television and radio appearances of equal duration, he added.

The head of the Central Electoral Commission's press service stressed that the proposals sent to the president on the use of television and radio airtime during the electoral campaign contain only one restrictive measure: "It is forbidden to challenge opponents in an improper fashion."

In the words of Aleksandr Bukhvalov, the Central Electoral Commission does not rule out that a provision on the use of the mass media during the period of preparation for the elections to the Federal Assembly will be validated by a presidential decree.

Media Plans for Campaign Coverage Outlined

PM2510161993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Inga Prelovskaya report under the "Russia Before Elections" rubric: "Television Screen Does Not Intend To Vote for Anyone"]

[Text] The conditions in which the upcoming elections will be held are complex both for the organizers of the campaign and for the voters. The time-frame has been compacted, the normative base is being modified on the march. Rival political associations are being hurriedly cobbled together, on whose shields famous names frequently appear in surprising combinations. In these conditions, the role of the mass media is growing significantly. It is no coincidence that, according to S. Filatov, the president has decided to supplement the Statute on Elections by a special edict on equal access to the mass media by different electoral associations. Naturally, everyone will be specially interested in air time.

Under the Statute on Elections, each candidate deputy has the right to appear on television and radio once. Local television and radio stations will give airtime to the candidates who are running in their territories. In the three weeks before the elections, the federal state television and radio broadcasting companies are obliged to give, on equal terms, at least one hour of morning or evening time to the electoral associations which have registered federal lists of their candidates.

Even with this regulation, some questions remain. Will the television companies themselves decide to whom they will give airtime and according to what procedure? What do they intend to do in order to present the various positions and views of the main contenders in the election campaign to society more extensively? Can the electoral associations use paid advertising in addition to the time which they will be granted by the state? At IZVESTIYA's request, Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the "Rossiya" Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the "Ostankino" Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, answered these questions.

First and foremost it is important to observe all formalities in covering the election campaign, Oleg Poptsov said. We have determined the time which we will give to the electoral associations: From 0725 until 0825 hours in the

morning and from 1845 until 1945 hours in the evening. Viewers find this a convenient and normal time for political broadcasts. The company intends to collaborate closely with the Central Electoral Commission. We insist that the Central Electoral Commission should determine the order of the various parties' and blocs' appearances by itself, maybe by drawing lots, Poptsov said. We have also asked it to draw up a document that would determine the framework of the speakers' conduct on air. We insist that a Central Electoral Commission spokesman be present as an arbiter on all of the broadcasts that are especially dedicated to the political associations.

From what Poptsov said, the company is concerned about possible emotional excesses by the contenders towards one another. And we already know from the experience of the late parliament where excessive passions lead. A precedent for the future is important here.

The "Ostankino" Television and Radio Broadcasting Company will ensure equal opportunities on its channels for all electoral associations, as prescribed by the Statute on Elections, Vyacheslav Bragin said. "Ostankino" is now working on a new evening program of about an hour's length, which will be carried every working day in the last three weeks before the elections and will be repeated in the morning of the following day. It will be devoted to reports on the stances of all the electoral associations that have registered their lists on a federal-wide level. The order in which these blocs will appear on air will be determined by the Central Electoral Commission.

A 15-minute broadcast from the Central Electoral Commission, as well as several broadcasts devoted to opinion polls among the voters, will be carried by "Ostankino" channels every Wednesday. On the "Ostankino" political programs, we will familiarize Russians with the whole spectrum of the candidates' political views using the most diverse formats, including live discussions. Naturally the views of the voters themselves will also be expressed. By and large, the television companies' work in covering the election campaign is being regulated in a fair amount of detail by the latest normative documents, to which we will definitely adhere. For my part, I can assure the leaders of political blocs that they have no grounds for concern about "Ostankino's" objectivity in covering the election campaign, Bragin concluded.

The question of equal opportunities is not so simple as it may seem at first sight, however. The multiparty system in our country is still only breaking through and the numerical strength of the parties comprises around 1 percent of the population. Those who have attended their congresses, and particularly the meetings in the provinces, have seen for themselves how small and amorphous these associations are at the moment. During election campaigns in the West, it is said, television follows the main contenders most of all: the ruling party and its main rival at the elections. The other participants in the election campaign are allocated space in proportion to their numbers and influence. From the point of view of common sense, this is doubtless reasonable. But the situation here is rather different. There is the "Russia's Choice" bloc, behind which stand powerful forces in the government, the president's administration, and established local "Democratic Russia" organizations. But its opponents will also attract the voters' attention; their strength lies not so much in the party masses or the reliance on administrative structures as in the influence of their leaders. That is how it is with the bloc of republicans and social-democrats, who have G. Yavlinskiy, V. Lukin, and Yu. Boldyrev. Naturally the voter will be interested in seeing not only official presentations of political associations on the screen, but also the energetic forms of contest between the rivals. For example, debates between the supporters of the "shock" therapy and the supporters of a more gradual reform process. Of course, in this context it would be useful to hear Gaydar talking to Yavlinskiy, Bogomolov, or Petrakov rather than Gaydar talking to Karaulov. Or Shakhray to Skokov or Boldyrev.

It is scarcely worth ruling out paid advertisements. Whether we want this or not, it will still increasingly become part of the scene. So is it not better to announce specific requirements in advance. For example, it would be a good idea to avoid excesses of populism, which could undermine the authority of any future powers.

The hopes being pinned on the elections as a method of improving and strengthening the federal power will only be justified if the parliament is elected in a free contest between political forces, and becomes an assembly of prestigious professionals who are prepared to put the interests of man and the state above their own interests.

Presidential Commission Begins Drafting Assembly Statute

LD2510181493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Presidential Commission for Legislative Initiatives has started drafting the statute of the future Federal Assembly, the commission's chairman, Mikhail Mityukov, told Interfax on Monday [25 October].

He said that the chairmen of the Federal Assembly's two chambers would be elected by a simple majority vote, while the chambers' plenary sessions would be alternately chaired by the chambers' speakers. According to Mityukov, the Federal Assembly will not have a presidium.

He also noted that a special committee of the State Duma would be in charge of deputies' salaries and living conditions, not the speakers. He announced that on Monday he would send his proposals on the Commission's membership to the president's staff. The Commission is expected to consist of 91 members, including 35 permanent members.

Yegor Bezrukov and Boris Zolotukhin—Mityukov's deputies during his tenure as chairman of the parliamentary committee for legislation; deputy executive secretary of the former Constitutional Commission Viktor

Sheynis; and Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev are expected to be appointed vice-chairmen of this commission.

Mityukov said that the Commission would be guided by the president-approved provision and by the decree of October 7 on the legal regulating of gradual constitutional reform, according to which the Commission for Legislative Initiatives will not only finalize the drafts proposed by the former parliament, but also draft new laws and presidential decrees.

He believes that the Commission should urgently concentrate on at least a dozen top-priority draft laws which will be submitted to the Federal Assembly on behalf of the president.

'New Russia' Bloc Submits Candidates List

LD2510193493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The New Russia bloc is the 20th consecutive public association to submit to the Central Electoral Commission the lists of candidates to run for the State Duma. The bloc includes the People's Party of Russia, the Bourgeois-Democratic Party, the Christian-Democratic Union of Russia, the Social-Liberal Party, the All-Russia Fund of Progress to Protect the Rights of Man and Mercy and the "Assembly" Public Association.

On the list are 207 candidates, including the leaders of the People's Party Telman Gdlyan, Nikolay Ivanov, businessman Mikhail Bocharov, the former Russian People's Deputy Vladimir Varov and so on.

Out of large public parties and association, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (Sergey Shakhray), the Movement for Democratic Reforms and the Russian Communist Party have not yet submitted their lists of candidates to the Central Electoral Commission.

Russia's Choice, Greens Submit Candidates List

LD2510175693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1133 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Russia's Choice electoral bloc has submitted to the Central Election Commission Monday [25 October] a list of 234 candidates to the State Duma, 19 in the federal list, 13 in the Moscow list and the remainder, in regional lists.

The federal list includes Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar, head of the presidential Human Rights Commission Sergey Kovalyov, Welfare Minister Ella Pamfilova, Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, Vice Premier and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, president's military adviser Dmitriy Volkogonov, president's chief of staff Sergey Filatov, head of the Federal Information Center Mikhail Poltoranin, lawyer Andrey Makarov, former state secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, coordinator of the State Chamber of the Constitutional Conference Boris Zolotukhin and others.

The Moscow list includes Vasiliy Selyunin and Andrey Nuykin, economists and columnists, and Nikolay Vorontsov, former ecology minister in the USSR government.

Also Monday, the Greens submitted their list of 66 candidates, topped by Dmitriy Likhachev, a distinguished scientist.

Russia's Choice Prefers Gaydar as Premier

LD2510191393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1646 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Leaders of the "Choice of Russia" election bloc said they would like to have Yegor Gaydar as the prime minister of a new government appointed by a new legislation which is to be elected in mid-December. Sergey Kovalev, Sergey Yushenkov and Arkadiy Murashov told a press conference on Monday [25 October] they personally want only Gaydar to head the government.

The "Choice of Russia" intends to coordinate its efforts with the political blocs led by Anatoliy Sobchak, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Konstantin Borovoy, Murashov said.

He ruled out cooperation with Sergey Shakhray's political bloc. "The platform which their founding congress adopted does not allow us to consider them our political allies. They have in fact adopted the platform of our opponents", he said. Murashov thinks Shakhray's bloc will be closer to the Democratic Party of Russia and Volskiy's bloc.

Communist Party To Participate in Duma Election

LD2510200993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Communist Party of the Russian Federation will take part in the elections to the State Duma. This decision was adopted at a plenum of the St. Petersburg executive committee of the party. Members of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation will not participate in activities of the Communists for Citizens' Rights Association and the Committee in Defense of the Soviet Constitutional Order.

The plenum also bound members of the party not to take part in rallies, demonstrations of other events to mark 7 November. The argument that such measures may entail provocations was cited to justify the decision. This was reported by ITAR-TASS.

Union of Communists Discusses Election Plans, Chooses Leaders

LD2510173193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The 2d congress of the Union of Communists was held in Moscow on 23 October. The decision adopted earlier on the union joining the international association

SKP-KPSS [Union of Communist Parties-CPSU] has been confirmed. Resolutions have been adopted on the development of the party's program, on the policy of the Union of Communists in respect to the 1993 elections, and on several other documents. The congress decided that the Union of Communists would not put forward its own party list for the elections, but noted that it was expedient to participate actively in the election campaign, this being a means to overcome cliquishness, and a way of setting up and strengthening active ties between the party and various sections of the population, and ties with associations and organizations.

The congress elected a new Central Committee and a new Central Control Commission. The Central Committee plenum elected the secretariat. Sergey Stepanov was elected first secretary of the Central Committee of the Union of Communists.

Yavlinskiy Interviewed on Coming Elections

PM2510165693 Paris LE FIGARO in French 21 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy by "P.B."; place and date not given]

[Text] It is difficult to attach a political label to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. At the age of 41, this talented and ambitious young economist worked for Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin in turn before quarreling with them because his successive plans for economic recovery were not implemented. Unlike Yegor Gaydar, who was in favor of building capitalism in Russia alone, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy advocated the maintenance of a common market among the former republics. He has since devoted himself to implementing his ideas in the very dynamic region of Nizhniy Novgorod. Candidate for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, he also plans to run for the Russian presidency.

[P.B.] Do you think that the 12 December elections, in which you will take part, will be democratic?

[Yavlinskiy] It is impossible to speak of truly democratic elections. The election will be held under the supervision of the government, which has established an authoritarian regime. As always, an authoritarian regime can only have one goal in elections: to increase its power. Everything is being prepared by the presidential apparatus. There is very little time left, and the rules of the game constantly change. How can you have a stable campaign in these conditions? It is surprising to see the extent to which the Yeltsin team is trying to restore the old system, to ensure that the same people sit in parliament and in the government. Look at the main electoral bloc - that of Yegor Gaydar: It represents the government and is using its resources.... And what are we to think of an information minister—Vladimir Shumeyko—who is joint president of the Gaydar electoral bloc?

[P.B.] You have nonetheless decided to take part in the election...

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, because we fear that these may be the last elections in this country unless all the positive forces take part.

[P.B.] What is the ideal profile of a candidate on your list?

[Yavlinskiy] The first criterion is professionalism. The second criterion is not having been involved in politics over the past two years. Take Yuriy Boldyrev, the former head of the presidency control body: He has clean hands. We must show the voters that there are still people like him in this country.

[P.B.] What will the broad outlines of your campaign be?

[Yavlinskiy] The most important thing is to create a real parliament in Russia. A parliament which will inspire confidence, a parliament which will form part of a real distribution of powers, which will combine a strong constructive opposition with the executive.

[P.B.] What is your economic strategy?

[Yavlinskiy] We need real private ownership. Second, the state must protect that ownership. Finally, we need a reform intended to create a veritable monetary system, a currency which we can use at home and abroad. Yegor Gaydar wants to liberalize a totalitarian economy. I am trying to liberate the economy from totalitarianism.

[P.B.] Do you see a danger of the voters returning to the ideas of the Left, as in Lithuania or Poland?

[Yavlinskiy] That danger certainly exists. I am here to work to prevent it.

[P.B.] Who is funding your campaign?

[Yavlinskiy] We have found several commercial structures which are ready to support us because they share my economic analyses. I chair a research institute; Yuriy Boldyrev works there with me: It is not we who are making money by the sale of oil, gas, or metals. In these circumstances, we must openly say that some banks are funding us; there is no other way. We are not like the government which can fund its campaign on budgetary funds.... In all, we will need around half a billion rubles, in other words around $500,000.

[P.B.] To come back to the election strategy, do you rule out any agreement with Yeltsin's supporters?

[Yavlinskiy] They form part of the government. If I am prepared to conclude agreements with the government, if I accept 40 percent inflation, why take part in the elections?

[P.B.] Are arrangements and agreements still possible in the case of the various centrist groups? With Arkadiy Volskiy, for example, who is described as the boss of "industry's red barons?"

[Yavlinskiy] I have serious doubts. He represents the directors of big state enterprises. Those people's interests do not coincide with those of a veritable market economy: They want budget donations, guaranteed state

orders to continue the development of the militaryindustrial complex. All that is unacceptable.

[P.B.] They are nonetheless different from the Russian Communist Party, which has been banned from the election, as has the People's Party of Free Russia, of which Aleksandr Rutskoy was chairman....

[Yavlinskiy] I think that those people will also have access to the elections. I am opposed to a solution which excludes a substantial section of society from the elections. I would prefer to fight the Communists in parliament than in the streets. That is something which the president ought to have understood....

Otherwise, there is a great danger: That of the formation of an opposition outside parliament. We have witnessed that in Georgia. It is preferable for all forms of opposition to be able to be expressed in parliament.

[P.B.] Do you see a danger of terrorist acts?

[Yavlinskiy] This phenomenon exists everywhere: Think of Italy or Germany. The government cannot claim that all its mistakes are due to the influence of angry Communists. Anpilov is a dangerous criminal, of course, but it is not he who determines the policy of the central bank. It is not the fascists who are behind the inflation rate of 40 percent a month.

[P.B.] What is your prediction for the presidential elections?

[Yavlinskiy] I laughed when I heard that the "toiling masses" had asked President Yeltsin to stay in office. We know this kind of language all too well. It is clear that Yeltsin wants to avoid elections and continue to the end of his mandate... Whatever the precise degree of responsibility the executive bears for the White House tragedy, the president of a country in which such things happen should go. When tanks fire on parliament, the president must once again seek his people's confidence. That is logical and moral....

[P.B.] Will you run?

[Yavlinskiy] Certainly.

Chernomyrdin's Position in Election Campaign Assessed

PM2210145793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Sergey Chugayev report: "Party Maneuvers Around Head of Government"]

[Text] An analysis of the composition of the parties and blocs that have applied to take part in the election allows us to conclude that Russia has witnessed virtually the complete replacement of its political elite.

The formation of a kind of political club comprising approximately three or four major parties which could gain a monopoly on the formation of the Russian political establishment for many years to come—including a monopoly on the nomination of presidential candidates exclusively from within their ranks—is nearing completion. And there is no doubt that gaining access to this club in the immediate future will be a very difficult task. That is why the current election campaign in Russia is also a tough battle for the right to permanent membership of this political club.

The replacement of one political monopoly—the CPSU—by a group of monopolies will inevitably lead to provincial politicians' having to choose the strongest party for building a career which will allow them, as in days of old, to move from the provinces to Moscow. Thus it is not so much political slogans that will be of decisive importance in the party struggle as each party's organization and, above all, its financial potential.

That, we must assume, is why the current Russian election campaign is not so much a competition between party slogans and programs as a contest of ideas. The abilities of different parties, their potential influence, and, consequently, their chances of election victory can be determined from the names involved. Surprisingly, they are all pragmatic and without idealism. Consequently the initially paradoxical fact that, a week after parliament's final dissolution, its place as a structure rent by factional infighting was taken by the until recently politically monolithic government (if barely month-old statements by cabinet representatives are to be believed) comes as no surprise either. It has to be assumed that ministers and vice premiers are clearly aware that these two months before the election will decide the personal political fate of each one of us for a long time to come.

Essentially only a handful of people in the top echelons of power, apart from the president, have yet to commit themselves. These include Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin.

I do not think that there is any need to go into detail about why those seeking seats in the new parliament have launched a real campaign over the past few days to get the premier into their political camp. In a relatively brief period the recent "strong economic manager" has turned into one of the most important political figures, winning the sympathies of a very broad spectrum of voters. Moreover, by his behavior during the Russian crises and at the most critical times V. Chernomyrdin has won a reputation as a tough, bold, and simply decent man. And all this in addition to the fact that the premier is backed by such a powerful structure as the fuel and energy complex. In short, it is very easy to understand how tempted politicians have been to entice the premier into their camp, because this is probably the only possible way to change the existing balance of political forces before the election. Or, for instance, to call the undoubted leadership of Russia's Choice into question.

There have recently been reports from various sources to the effect that V. Chernomyrdin has allegedly already expressed a preference for the Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRUA] headed by S. Shakhray. It has also been reported that, with the support of Shakhray's party,

he intends to run in Orenburg electoral district and that Vice Premier O. Soskovets has decided to link his fate to this party as well.

It is quite obvious that V. Chernomyrdin is now in a very difficult position. While working in the executive's united team, neither he himself nor his numerous supporters ever thought it necessary to set up—like certain other government members—their own political organization. Thus he has been forced to wait meekly for January, when he will be retired by the election-winning party, which will form a new cabinet based on a majority in parliament. Or, if he wants to stay in politics, he will have to become one of the leaders (but not the main leader) of one of the existing election blocs. Which, clearly, is something that he has been strongly encouraged to do of late.

But the 20 October government press service statement denying the rumors that the premier supports the PRUA gives us reason to believe that the prime minister recognizes that such a decision will inevitably lead to the emergence of another political crisis in Russia, whose first consequence would be the collapse of the cabinet. And the question of the premier's resigning even before the election would arise into the bargain.

If the Russian Government's activity during all of the present year—which, we will recall, was declared the "year of the economy"—is attentively analyzed, the inevitable conclusion is that most cabinet members have been doing anything but deal with the economy throughout this period. They have been preparing for the referendum, taking part in the Constitutional Conference, fighting corruption, laying siege to parliament... Ever since the Supreme Soviet, which had stopped economic problems being solved, was removed from the picture, government members have again been dealing not with the economy but with preparations for the election. And the surprising fact that the country's economy has not collapsed as a result of these exercises but has managed to keep going is undoubtedly down to the premier, who realized that the state cannot live by politics alone. Today, insofar as we know, while many government members are getting ready for the election V. Chernomyrdin is preparing to deliver a report 2 November to an enlarged session of the Council of Ministers on the results of the fulfillment of the first phase of the economic program for 1993-1995 and on economic reform.

Moreover, quite unexpectedly to many, V. Chernomyrdin has become the central government figure able to balance the very diverse political predilections of ministers and vice premiers. This role of a kind of core figure who essentially strengthens the coalition government has increased immeasurably now that cabinet members have become the leaders of rival political parties. If V. Chernomyrdin were to come down on one side, people on the other side would be forced to leave the cabinet, and this would not only lead to an acute government crisis but would greatly complicate the political situation in the country—jeopardizing the very possibility of holding the election on which the politicians trying to entice the premier are relying.

If V. Chernomyrdin succeeds in remaining above the electoral fray, we can assume with a great degree of confidence that his political career will not be over once he has vacated the premiership—most probably after the election.

Comparison of Yeltsin Security Edict

CM2610150593

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian on 21 October 1993 carries in its First Edition on page 1 Russian Federation presidential edict No. 1661 on security during the election campaign. Comparison of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item entitled "On Certain Measures To Safeguard State and Public Security During the 1993 Election Campaign," with the Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian version headlined "Yeltsin Edict Bans Groups, Individuals From Election" published on page 36 of the Russia National Affairs section of the 20 October Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT reveals the following variations:

page 36, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item does not carry first two ITAR-TASS paragraphs.

page 37, column one, from fourth full paragraph, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item reads: 1. It is established that the following cannot be registered for participation in the elections to both Federal Assembly chambers or in the elections to representative organs of power in Russian Federation components 12 December 1993:

as electoral associations—the National Salvation Front, the Russian Communist Workers Party, the "Officers' Union" Social Club, the "Shchit" Union for the Social and Legal Protection of Servicemen, Persons Subject to Military Service, and Members of Their Families, the Russian Communist Youth League, Russian National Unity, and electoral associations that include the aforementioned associations;

as candidate deputies—persons who have been duly charged under the law in connection with the armed revolt in Moscow 3-4 October 1993, and those previously charged in connection with the armed attack on the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command Headquarters.

2. This edict does not extend to citizens who were members of the social associations listed in the second paragraph [of Point 1] but who are not among those named in the third paragraph of Point 1 of this edict.

3. This edict comes into force from the moment it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 19 October 1993
No. 1661 (adding the "Russian Communist Youth League" and "Russian National Unity" and signatory).

Economic Issues

Gaydar Upbeat on Economic Outlook; Comments on Agriculture

PM2510121193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Otto Latsis report on interview with First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar; place and date not given: "Russia Intends To Regain Its Status As Grain Exporter"]

[Text] It is a month since presidential edict No 1400 was issued. It is hard, of course, to speak of normal working conditions over the course of this month, which included not only the October tragedy but also the preceding days, when the bureaucratic apparatus was not so much working as waiting to see which side would win. Nevertheless, for the first time since the start of the market reforms the government worked without the hindrance of a parliament applying the brakes to reform in all spheres. What has been done in this month? That was the question which kicked off my discussion with First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar.

It transpires that the prime concern was to overcome the kind of divergence in financial policy that had emerged in recent months. With federal budget revenue running at around 15-16 percent of GDP, the Finance Ministry wanted to keep budget expenditure at a level close to 19-20 percent of GDP—that kind of deficit had generated quite moderate inflation. However, parliament, without in any way increasing revenue, had promised various social strata expenditure running at 34-38 percent of GDP. Together with expenditure from extrabudgetary funds and local budget deficits, this could have brought Russia virtually to the 60-percent level of expenditure that exists in Ukraine and quite reliably ensures economic disaster. We were saved from this for a while by the risky policy of Finance Minster B. Fedorov, who simply refused to obey the crazy decisions of parliament (for which R. Khasbulatov repeatedly threatened him with court proceedings and other penalties).

But there is a limit to everything. The increase in the inflation rate to 30 percent in August as against 16-20 percent in the preceding months showed that the dam erected by B. Fedorov was beginning to crack under the inflationary pressure. The divergence in the state's budget promises was causing ever-increasing political strain, and also a dangerous chain of defaults on payments. A choice had to be made—either an anti-inflationary policy or a pro-inflationary policy.

Of course, the momentum of budget promises that have already been made cannot be eliminated overnight, it will take around six months to do this properly. Some promises have to be kept, others can be deferred, others can be canceled as rapidly as possible. Over the course of the month this stocktaking process has been carried out to a considerable extent. The most urgent debts have largely been paid. Certain hasty decisions have been reviewed—in particular, the indexation of investment resources has been abolished. Preferential loan interest rates have been abolished. It has been possible to resist the intention to increase the defense order in 1994. Import subsidies have been abolished, except for imports of medicines. The liberalization of the prices of bread and energy sources and the decision on a phased increase in apartment rents also ease the budget's burden. As a result there are grounds for hoping that over the next few months inflation will fall to under 20 percent and maybe even to 15 percent a month. If this policy is consistently continued, by mid-1994 a radical reduction in inflation will be a realistic prospect.

Preparations have been begun to issue around 30 edicts and decrees on protecting ownership rights, privatization, the liberalization of foreign economic activity, the reform of the social sphere, and agrarian reform. They include, for instance, a whole package of documents ensuring the possibility of obtaining loans for housing construction via the population's money. A new version of the 1994 privatization program is being readied. Naturally, the validity of privatization checks has been extended, which could not have been done while parliament was working. An edict on improving the procedure for payments has been adopted: The circulation of bills of exchange is being introduced, which we wanted to do back in 1992.

What is it planned to do before the elections? We very much hope to offer the new parliament a package of basic legal acts that it could immediately examine. The first section of the new Civil Code is being finalized, and the second section will be ready in December. A new Criminal Code is being prepared—these are basic documents without which you cannot seriously speak of the development of the reforms. We would very much like the new parliament to reaffirm the course of a sensible financial policy. A most important sphere is the elaboration of basic legislation regulating property relations. Today, for instance, the fact that contract legislation has not been elaborated and the impossibility of ensuring the fulfillment of agreements are an extremely important obstacle (along with inflation) to the development of investment. Long-term projects are being wrecked because of this.

This range of legal regulatory activity gives an idea of what lies in store for us in economic practice. Since bills of exchange are being introduced, the bankruptcy of insolvent debtors is becoming real. Recently there was one barrier to employing the mechanism of bankruptcy: We could not agree who would deal with this. Now it has been decided that it will be the job of the Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property]. A department that will be instructed to handle receivership [sanatsiya] is being set up. Ye. Gaydar has already received the leader of the new department, Sergey Belyayev, former chairman of the St. Petersburg Property Committee.

The first vice premier believes that the period since January 1992 has not been wasted: The system of social shock absorbers necessary for structural reorganization has to a considerable extent been formed. There is a

system for the registration of people who need jobs, and many people have already found themselves a social niche and taken up a new profession.

Let us recall: What did we see as the main shortcoming in the structure of the Soviet economy by comparison with the Western economy? The tremendous lag in the services sphere. But what is the main complaint today? "Nobody is producing anything, everybody is engaged in trade." But this means rapid growth in employment in the services sphere, albeit sometimes in irrational forms. Even last year the reduction in employment in industry was sizable—of the order of 3 million people. The services sphere absorbed practically all this manpower and there was no increase in unemployment.

Today there is a certain set of instruments for supporting small business. The system of "incubators" consists of services, training, consultation, hand-holding for small businesses until they make their first profit, and modest loans. The package of documents that the first vice premier is hoping to pass before the elections includes his pet draft edict: "On Freedom of Economic Activity and the Encouragement of Competition." One of the aims of this and certain other documents is to reduce as far as possible the range of opportunities for functionaries to extort bribes from entrepreneurs.

Not only active market legal regulation but also certain specific economic results also make it possible to look to the future with some confidence. Thus, despite the fact that it has not proved possible to fully harvest the bumper yield of grain crops, Ye. Gaydar is convinced that the sharp reduction of grain imports over the next year remains an entirely realistic prospect. Moreover, he has already discussed with the Khleboprodukt [All-Russia Joint-Stock Company for the Sale of Bread, Grain, and Agricultural Produce] leadership the question of exporting certain types of grain crops. The market has worked here—it has done something that journalists and economists spent 20 years writing about and discussing but that the planned economy was never able to achieve. The market has reoriented a considerable proportion of the livestock raising sector toward using green feed, has changed the structure of the livestock population in favor of personal subsidiary farms (where efficiency is greater), has reduced losses, has closed livestock raising where it was not backed up by feed of its own, and has gotten rid of unproductive animals that produced nothing but dung. Back in the spring of last year the government with great difficulty divided out the last few thousand tonnes from feed stocks—today this problem simply does not exist. And the radical reduction of grain imports not only means freeing Russian peasants from an ignominy without precedent in the past (from time immemorial Russia was a grain exporter). This also promises a saving of billions of dollars that are badly needed for other purposes.

Ye. Gaydar believes that in 1994 it will be possible to reduce the surge of inflation and by the end of the year to bring it down to 3 percent per month. Against this background the decline in the ruble exchange rate will continue to lag behind the inflation rate, and the dollar equivalent of the average wage will increase accordingly. Next year it will certainly top $100 per month—and in estimating this figure, let us not forget that back in December 1991, on the eve of the reforms, it was $6.

Of course, the dollar equivalent of our wages can in no way serve as a yardstick for living standards—the structures of prices and expenditure are too different in our country and in the West. However, it provides an excellent measure of the intensity of the economic crisis. When you bear in mind that in Russia at present the average wage "weighs" about $70, in Estonia it is about $80, and in Ukraine it is about $9, there is no need for any further commentary regarding the success of the reforms in these republics, which only yesterday formed a single economy.

The first vice premier also believes that the economy will continue to open up gradually, and the level of domestic prices will approach 30 percent of the level of world prices, which, he thinks, is appropriate for our economy. The rate of decline in production, despite the launching of the receivership mechanism, will be far lower than in 1992-1993, and thus by 1995 we may well enter a stage of stable or growing production. In 1994 there is an opportunity to complete mass privatization and to switch to calmer work in this sphere. By 1995 conditions may be created for private investment and growth in the population's real savings.

Despite all our justified mistrust of optimistic forecasts, it can be admitted that the economic preconditions for the realization of these hopes exist. Will we ensure the political preconditions? The elections will answer that question.

Describes Economic Program

PM2510095593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 1

[Comment by Yegor Gaydar, Russian Federation first vice premier, under "Politics" rubric: "'Russia's Choice' Is Continuation of Course of Reforms, First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar Believes"]

[Text] Our economic program is quite clear and comprehensible—it is the creation of the preconditions for the steady growth of production on a market basis. The essence of it is to gradually free society of the enormous burden of state pressure, reduce the excessive level of state expenditure, and cut the rate of inflation. The program also presupposes a tax reform and the lowering of the general level of taxation, the adoption of basic laws providing reliable guarantees for private ownership, and a switch from the protection of enterprises to the protection of socially vulnerable groups of the population.

Our concept is the successor to the well-known 300-page program for deepening the economic reforms elaborated by the government in 1992—we do not intend abandoning it. The working program for the development of the reform adopted in August this year is also based on

the 1992 documents and takes subsequent experience into account. But some things, of course, will be clarified. We are now working on ways to implement it as part of a package of rational solutions—via edicts and normative documents which embrace all the most important economic and social spheres of activity: distribution of resources, structural reorganization, formation of the 1994 budget, deepening privatization in 1993-1994, and much else besides. Thus the economic program of the "Russia's Choice" bloc and the government program are kindred documents.

Stresses Financial Stabilization

LD2510230293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2110 GMT 25 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent Sergey Omelchenko] The policy of financial stabilization has begun the process of cutting down on the country's senseless extravagance. This is how Yegor Gaydar described the present state of the Russian economy at a meeting with the aktiv of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA at its elite 206 Club. This is his second visit here; the previous meeting was following his resignation. Now he explains his plan of radical reforms, whereby the structures that are nonviable, superfluous, and alien to a normal economy are coming down and ceasing to exist when a market economy starts to operate, and it is necessary to develop healthy trends and infrastructures.

[Begin Gaydar recording] Indeed, a toughening of budget restrictions and a normal market very quickly ring out of the economy those types of activity that are meaningless and have no bearing on social requirements, that is solvent requirements. [end recording]

[Omelchenko] The first deputy prime minister is pursuing a tough line and is not worried by the fact that, together with that which is harmful and unnecessary, some things that might better be left alone might also disappear. At this meeting he took up arms in particular against land improvement and tanks. However, Gaydar is worried by the fact that the process of structural perestroyka is stuttering along and lagging behind today. But, generally speaking, Gaydar assured journalists that he was in favor of evolutionary development which, with skillful administration, is bound, logically, to lead to the expected result. To a tricky question from one of the staff as to whether we would all become extinct or not, Gaydar gave an assured answer no, painting a perfectly realistic and happy socioeconomic future.

Reshuffles at Economy Ministry Assessed

MK2310122193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 2

[Leonid Brodskiy report: "Economy Ministry Chiefs Appointed. Yegor Gaydar Forms New Team"]

[Text] Reshuffles at the Russian Economy Ministry clearly point in a certain direction. The appointment of Valeriy Fateyev and Sergey Ignatyev as deputy ministers and the removal of Yuriy Olkhovikov from a similar office confirm that Yegor Gaydar is forming a cohesive team that will be able to work even if the first deputy prime minister is no longer at the head of the Economy Ministry.

Yuriy Olkhovikov's dismissal may be called an echo of a noisy campaign to expose corruption in high places in August of this year. At that time, his name was mentioned in connection with the unlawful use of oil export quotas by some companies. As soon as these accusations were published, Oleg Lobov (the then economy minister) promised his deputy that he would "not give him up." Oleg Lobov himself, however, was soon moved to the Security Council, and Yuriy Olkhovikov's performance did not suit new Economy Minister Yegor Gaydar. According to unofficial information, Yuriy Olkhovikov's dismissal was caused not so much by his past, but by his future—the Russian Government plans to cut drastically the lists of products subject to quotas, hence the need for such specialists will significantly diminish. As for Yuriy Olkhovikov's future job, it has been inferred that he may go to the Fuel and Energy Ministry, which is planned to be tasked with allocating oil export quotas.

The appointments of Valeriy Fateyev and Sergey Ignatyev have also largely been precipitated by Yegor Gaydar's actions. If, however, in the case of Fateyev (he was appointed chief administrator of the Economy Ministry and before that he was unemployed since last April) it was the proximity of his political preferences with the first deputy prime minister's views that proved decisive, Ignatyev's elevation was determined by his high level of professionalism.

Economy Ministry specialists give varying explanations for Sergey Ignatyev's appointment as deputy minister. According to one theory, his dismissal from the Central Bank (where he was in charge of allocating centralized credits) amounted to Viktor Gerashchenko's demonstrative gesture designed to remind the government of his views on forming the Central Bank's staff. Another version that appears more substantiated, however, is that Yegor Gaydar managed to persuade the qualified specialist "to go over" to him, because he needed him to form a team that would be able to operate "autonomously" under a different economy minister (for instance, Yakov Urinson)—thus freeing Yegor Gaydar's hands for political activity.

Shokhin Denies New Economic Program Planned

LD2210234993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy Russian Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin has denied any knowledge that a new economic program was in the works in the Cabinet. In an interview with Interfax on Friday [22 October], he said that senior Cabinet members meeting on Thursday had reaffirmed that the two-year economic plan the government

approved in August would remain in force as a guideline for Cabinet ministers wanting to run in the December elections.

Shokhin said the meeting had stressed that any cabinet minister opting to run in the elections on a different platform had better resign first.

Chubays Interviewed on Privatization, CIS Debts

LD2310180393

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1305 GMT in its "Money and Politics" program, presented by Aleksandr Shalnev, carries an 8-minute interview with Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the state committee for the management of state property. Chubays had recently suggested that drastic measures be taken with regard to the former USSR republics that are not paying their debts to Russia. In this interview, he says: "Our relations with the former USSR countries are developing in such a way that Russia is increasingly turning into a creditor nation and they into debtors. There are objective reasons for this, the economy of the former Soviet Union was arranged in this way, but it is quite clear nevertheless—and this is my deep conviction—that Russia must have a firm stance on this matter." Chubays said there was as yet no definite statistics as to who owes what to whom in the CIS, but the information was being collected. He continues: "Unfortunately, it is obvious that for many republics, there is no prospect of repaying these debts with hard currency or with any goods that Russia may need. Since this is so, we must not only register these debts but also convert them into some other form—for example, connected with property, or to find other ways of having the debts that are presently accumulating repaid to Russia." The problem is that many debtor enterprises have not yet been privatized, so it is impossible for Russia to become their shareholder. "In some cases," he says, "the stocks of finished products or some valuable raw materials can be used as a form of payment, but where civilized forms of settling accounts are possible, this should be done."

Chubays then spoke about the progress of privatization in Russia. He said: "The main problem is not whether capitalism will begin on 1 March 1994 or not. The problem is how to make the Russian economy develop from the extremely unstable semi-balanced state in which it finds itself today to the state of a steady, if not very dynamic, growth. Economic growth on the market basis—this is the main goal to be achieved by the Russian economy in 1994." He says that the upcoming elections should speed up this process and make it more stable.

At the end of the discussion, Chubays says: "We are currently completing work on a number of documents on the protection of rights of shareholders, and especially small-scale shareholders. It used to be an abstract political problem but now it has become a matter of great economic urgency. There are no less than 50 million shareholders in Russia. These people and their rights should be protected. We are currently finalizing these documents and I reckon they will be endorsed by a presidential edict within the next three-four weeks."

Ivanenko Sums Up Progress of Privatization

PM2210133193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "There Will Be More Shareholders. Bankruptcies Too"]

[Text] By the end of the year around one-half of all enterprises in Russia will have been privatized. Aleksandr Ivanenko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, said at the international "Privatization in Russia" congress. Of the 13,900 major enterprises due for privatization, 8,200 (59 percent) have already been privatized or are in the process of being privatized, and the same goes for 2,200 (46 percent) of the 5,000 biggest enterprises.

The privatization of 5,200 of the more than 8,000 industrial and construction enterprises is almost complete. In light industry 57 percent of the enterprises have been privatized; in the food industry the figure is 56 percent; it is 33 percent in construction, 56 percent in the construction materials industry, and 49 percent in the motor vehicle transport sector. Privatization of trade enterprises varies rather a lot from region to region.

But the reduction in investment demand is inevitably having an adverse effect on the course of privatization. Some of the main errors made in the course of privatization were identified: A failure to take due account of the sectoral peculiarities of privatization and of the rights of Federation components; deviations from the law in the course of its implementation; shortcomings in the legislative base and the multiplicity of laws. According to the deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, too many sectoral enterprises have been removed from the privatization list for no reason or obstacles have been created. Nevertheless there is no need to significantly alter the state program of privatization, according to the leaders of the State Committee for the Management of State Property. Likely adjustments will affect primarily the rights of regions (the issuing of a "gold" share, the right to independently make decisions if it has been successfully implemented beforehand, to elaborate their own normative documents, and determine the method of privatization).

Considerably more state property will be sold in exchange for privatization checks in 1994. Monitoring of the activities of check investment funds is to be stepped up. The most serious problems of the privatization and postprivatization period will will be associated with the greater economic demands placed on privatized enterprises, in particular the 9,000 enterprises currently requiring economic overhaul or the application of the bankruptcy mechanism.

In reply to a question about the need for two federal property organs and about the future of property funds, Aleksandr Ivanenko expressed the official view which is that the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property will probably take charge of the Russian Property Fund. Although, contrary to the law, a presidential edict will be signed in the very near future on tax concessions for social protection check investment funds. Some 4 percent of the investment checks not taken up by citizens will be transferred to them.

Congress Analyzes Privatization Progress

PM2210150393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Igor Karpenko report: "Capitalism Will Come to Russia at the Beginning of 1994"]

[Text] The "Privatization in Russia" Congress, which is taking place within the framework of the program of the Fourth "World Experience and the Russian Economy" International Forum, is at work in the Kremlin Palace. Its participants—economists, scientists, bankers, businessmen, enterprise directors, and leaders of ministries and departments—are analyzing the process of the change of ownership in the country and making their recommendations to the government as regards adjusting market reforms.

Straight after the congress opened, television and radio carried a sensational news report—something that Aleksandr Ivanenko, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo], said in his main speech to the effect that by the end of the first quarter of 1994 Russia, having privatized over 50 percent of state property, will have switched to capitalist means of production and an economy based on private ownership.

In this connection older people obviously recall with some skepticism and humor Nikita Khrushchev's world-renowned promise—"The present generation will live to see communism"—which impelled local bosses in some regions to start counting off the days until this historic date. However, the Goskomimushchestvo does have some grounds for this conclusion. A. Ivanenko's report and the speeches by Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign specialists particularly pointed to the rapid rate of privatization in Russia, unparalleled in world practice. In virtually one year over 80,000 enterprises have changed their form of ownership.

Thus, in the field of "small-scale" privatization, including installations in the sectors closest to the interests of the ordinary citizen, the private sector already comprises over 63 percent of the ownership structure as of early October. Some 63.4 percent of trading enterprises have been privatized and the figure stands at 58 and 64.6 percent for public catering and consumer service enterprises respectively. That means that, despite many shortcomings and the problems of "nomenklatura" privatization, which manifested themselves most clearly in these sectors, private ownership and entrepreneurs have already accumulated a kind of controlling bloc of shares enabling one to speak of a change in the means of production and distribution.

At the moment the figures are more modest for "large-scale" privatization, including the country's medium and major industrial enterprises. Some 8,200 enterprises have been floated here, and over 5,000 have experienced check auctions. Registration and flotation do not mean private ownership—it is still necessary to sell state property at an open auction, hold the first meeting of shareholders, obtain a certificate of private or collective ownership, and so on. Nevertheless to date enterprises employing over 30 percent of the total number of people employed in production have legally changed their form of ownership. I would remind you that the state privatization program envisaged a compulsory change of ownership at 5,000 medium and major enterprises, and another 9,000 collectives have now applied for flotation on their own initiative.

If these applications are put into practice by the end of the first quarter of 1994 and "small-scale" privatization is completed as planned, over one-half of state property will indeed have switched to private ownership and it will be possible to speak of a capitalist means of production in Russia. Provided of course that you do not take into account the obvious lack of capital among Russian private entrepreneurs.

It is entrepreneurs' lack of funds owing to the change in the macroeconomic situation—price increases, inflation, recirpocal nonpayments—that has caused a dramatic drop in demand for investment and forced the government to switch to free check privatization. However, the pace of this kind of privatization has also been considerably held back by political opposition and by parliament's policy of thwarting market reforms. This is graphically evidenced by one fact cited at the congress: A special commission has discovered that the Federal Property Fund, accountable to parliament, has illegally and without any grounds held back shares in privatized enterprises worth over 30 billion rubles! That practice was, regrettably, also routine in regional property funds. It has now been decided to directly hand over these shares for sale to those regions, where the privatization process is proceeding most vigorously and where shares can be sold rapidly.

The participants in the congress gave and analyzed plenty of reasons why market reforms and the development of a stock market are being held up and the privatization process delayed. The lack of a normative base both for privatization itself and for the postprivatization period was cited particularly frequently: There is, after all, still no new privatization program or even a law on the joint-stock company. Incidentally, a draft program has been issued to congress participants. They will be able to suggest their amendments to this document, which the Goskomimushchestvo intends to

submit to the new parliament for ratification. Work will be drastically stepped up to eliminate all the main gaps in privatization legislation, which in the current political situation can be structured in the interests of business without the former populist "amendments" and compromises with the corps of deputies.

Conferences will be held 21 and 22 October within the congress framework on flotation, the sectoral features of privatization, and the management of private enterprises and investment funds.

Central Bank Chair Views Reform, Resignation Rumors

LD2510201693

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1640 GMT on 25 October broadcasts a 20-minute edition of the regular program "Echo of the Week", presented by Igor Pototskiy, which contains an interview with Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko, which appears in the form of clips interspersed with other features on recent political events.

On the subject of the two different economic policies being presented by Yegor Gaydar and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Gerashchenko says: "I do not think that the choice always consists of some two possible options. If the elaboration of these options is done seriously, with a definite study of the deep roots and causes of our problems, and two optimum approaches are developed, then perhaps they are sufficient, but in general terms it seems to me that either we continue to pursue, or try to pursue, a super-harsh budgetary, monetary, and credit policy, and effectively destroy the foundations of our economy, I mean industry in particular, of course. Or, by means of some kind of balancing, with certain elements of inflationary, more substantial influence than we might like, we should begin a policy of structural rebuilding."

Regarding continuing rumors that he is about to resign, Gerashchenko says: "By the president's edict of 21 September, the Central Bank is subordinate to the government until the election of the new parliament, and is of course guided by the decrees and resolutions of the government, which, incidentally, always used to happen, as long as these government decrees and resolutions do not run counter to the law on the Central Bank and banking activity, which no one has yet rescinded. So, from the point of view of subordination, perhaps, more frequent contacts with the government, with the government leadership on many issues, there will be changes. But I will say that it will be irresponsible to resign at present, because again, under the law no one can dismiss me at present, and I think I should remain in my place, with my colleagues, at least until the new parliament starts works."

He continues: "I fully anticipate that the election of the new parliament will also require that the leaders of the Central Bank surrender their powers, and that the new parliament be granted the right to form not only a new government but also [appoint] new leaders for one or another federal department."

The subject of the program turned to a recent presidential edict on promissory notes—referring to the edict "On improving payments in the economy". On this topic Gerashchenko says: "The presidential edict that was issued on 19 October, and moreover, it was done secretly, hastily, with some kind of ridiculous timescales, without any legislative foundation, this is, in effect, a road to nowhere, and the strangest thing is that a great deal is imposed on the Central Bank by this edict, but it was not even agreed with the Central Bank."

He continues: "We did not see it, we did not endorse it, and we do not really understand the aim of the edict."

Resignation Rumors Refuted

LD2210141393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1256 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Oct—The press service of the Central Bank of Russia has refuted media reports that Viktor Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank, has resigned. These reports are unsubstantiated, the press service stated.

Bank Official Explains Interest Rate Increase

PM2210141593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Interest Rate Has Been Increased. What Now?"]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia [CBR] Board of Directors has adopted a decision to increase the refinancing rate to 210 percent as of 15 October and to 420 percent per annum on the overdue balance [po debitovomu saldo]. Thus, the interest rate has at once leaped 30 percent. What induced the CBR to take such a step?

This decision has been dictated by exclusively professional considerations, not by the desire of Gerashchenko to run ahead of the locomotive, as certain publications write, CBR Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev believes.

As is known, in May this year the government and the Central Bank signed the statement "On Economic Policy," within whose framework we adopted a pledge to set the refinancing rate at a level which cannot be more than 7 percent below the average interbank rate. We have made a careful study of trends on the interbank market, and, in our opinion, the Central Bank's interest policy over the past few months was well-founded. We adhered to a tactic of an evolutionary increase in the interest rate so as not to disrupt the shaping of the interbank market. The analysis showed that we succeeded in this: The dynamics of the interbank market's rates were quite closely tied in with changes in the

refinancing rate. We increased it by 10 percent, sometimes by 20 percent, and only once by 30 percent (15 July).

In principle, abiding by the accord with the IMF, so as to fulfill our pledges to it, we could increase the rate only to 185 percent. The fact that agricultural produce is now being purchased and that the acute problem of nonpayments in the national economy persists militated in favor of this. The stabilization, which had become apparent in the ruble's currency exchange rate, and the lowering of the rate of inflation were also serious arguments against a steep increase in the interest rate.

At the end of September, however, a definite hiccup occurred in the functioning of the interbank market. This occurred partly under the influence of the fact that a decree adopted by the government entrusted the Central Bank, jointly with the Ministry of Finance, with drawing up a system of measures for financial stabilization, including an increase in the interest rate to 200 percent in late September-early October. The precise date was not indicated, but market agents at once began gearing themselves to this figure. On 12 October the main participant in the interbank market—the Savings Bank—increased interest rates to 230-250 percent.

A spasmodic increase in rates had begun on the interbank market. Its participants had begun operating to an outstripping regime, and an interest expectation had emerged in addition to an inflationary expectation. Therefore, the CBR Board of Directors arrived at the conclusion that an increase in the rate to 210 percent would normalize the interbank market, eliminate the discrepancy between its rate and the refinancing rate and thus reduce the influence of speculators, stabilize the financial situation, and make it possible to implement a better-founded credit policy.

Chernomyrdin Sets Aside Credits for Agriculture

LD2310195093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has decided Saturday [23 October] to set aside for the Agro-Industrial Complex one trillion 450 billion rubles as centralized credits, Interfax has been told by the spokesman for the Russian Prime Minister Valentin Sergeyev. He said the sum would be distributed in the following way: A credit worth 650 billion rubles has been set aside for the Ministry of Agriculture. As many as 350 billion out of the total sum will go for procurement of vegetables and potatoes, 300 billion to the Committee for Processing Industry. Sergeyev has said 650 billion rubles have been set aside with 200 percent annual interest.

Some 500 billion rubles will go to "Roskhlebprodukt" to buy sunflower seeds and oil-yielding plants.

To repay the state debt to agriculture, Chernomyrdin has set aside additional 300 billion-ruble non-interest loans which will help the state to buy 25 million tons of grain. He also said that 8 tons of grain are now at storage places and the government wants to set aside shortly the necessary sum of money to buy them.

Sergeyev has said that the farmers that up till now were in a difficult financial position, will use efficiently the allocated sums.

The deputy Russian Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha who is responsible for agriculture, has sent Saturday a government telegram to leaders of the republics, territories and regions where he specifies what sum will be sent to each of them.

The telegram suggests taking measures for the urgent use of the allocated money, first of all to repay debts to the country's agricultural complex.

Yeltsin Urged To Close Loopholes in Land Reform

MK2310123393 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 69, 23 Oct 93 (signed to press 22 Oct 93) p 1

[SEGODNYA-signed report: "Radicals Criticize Draft Edict on Land"]

[Text] Petr Filippov, chief of the president administration's Analytical Center for Social and Economic Policies, said yesterday that he sent a message to Boris Yeltsin requesting that he postpone the signing of the draft edict on land reform because it leaves a "loophole" for retaining state and collective farms. According to Mr. Filippov, the draft edict still includes the provision on the possibility of the "voluntary association" of farms into cooperatives, which opens up opportunities for them to mimic state and collective farms. In Mr. Filippov's view, the edict should include a provision invalidating documents registering state and collective farms as joint-stock companies and partnerships if they do not allow farmers to leave the joint-stock companies taking their land plots with them.

Yeltsin Appoints Pension Fund Chairman

LD2510172593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1046 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 25 ITAR-TASS—President Boris Yeltsin today appointed Vasiliy Barchuk chairman of the board of the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation. The decree appointing Barchuk Pension Fund chairman was signed today, the president's press office reported.

Shokhin Calls Foreign Investment Levels 'Unsatisfactory'

PM2510142993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Untitled item from roundup of INTERFAX/ITAR-TASS reports under the general heading "Economy"]

[Text] Andrey Shokhin, deputy chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, has described as unsatisfactory the

activity of the country's executive and legislative organs to attract foreign capital into the Russian economy over the last few years.

He announced that, as of 1 July 1993, the total volume of all forms of foreign capital accumulated in the country's national economy over a long period of years stood at $7 billion. According to the estimates of Russian experts, the republic's economy potentially needs $40-50 billion in foreign investments per annum.

'Roundtable' Participants Ponder Economic Prospects

PM2210130593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Oct 93 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Krushinskiy of ITAR-TASS, especially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI: "Our Affairs Are Not So Hopeless. Such Is the Opinion of Experts and Practical Workers Gathered at 'Roundtable'"]

[Text] How will the current political crisis affect the Russian economy? Here are the forecatss by several prestigious academics, entrepreneurs, and public figures.

Nikolay Petrakov:

The economy will once again be sacrificed to politics. The preelection wave of inevitable populist promises will bring in its wake a new twist in the inflation spiral. The situation with the referendum will be repeated: After all, the current crazy budget deficit is the result of the partial fulfillment of promises given back in April...

Yevgeniy Saburov:

The people no longer believe any promises, therefore there will be no special need for them. I also hope that, in the absence of the Supreme Soviet, the government will be able to "hold up" certain promises. Therefore the elections may not cost us so dear as the referendum.

Stepan Sitaryan:

The election campaign will, of course, complicate the situation, but we should hardly expect a serious deterioration, if only because we have nowhere special to fall any more. It is bad, however, that the end of the year will again be lost for the preparation of the state budget for the following year...

Konstantin Zatulin:

The regions will take advantage of the crisis and will delay in every way the payment of money into the federal coffers, declare "tax strikes," and so forth. And the government will have no other option but to increase emission, provoking further inflation...

This was the range of opinions at the "roundtable." The conversation was fairly uncompromising, which is natural: The situation in the national economy gives no grounds for euphoria. But there were also remarks in the spirit of cautious optimism. The belief in the ultimate victory of the forces of good which most of us still nurture causes us to see a positive subtext to even not particularly joyous phenomena.

In this sense the account of Vladimir Bashmachnikov, president of the Association of Peasant Private Farms (AKKOR), is striking. In his words, even the not altogether radical change in forms of ownership in former kolkhozes is stimulating shareholders of rural joint-stock companies to work better than yesterday.

Mark Masarskiy, well-known entrepreneur and public figure, devoted his speech to turning economic trends to good account. State paternalism, for example, is bad—the invincible habit of administrations at every level of sheltering those underneath it and keeping bankrupts afloat. Of course, it is bad if it contradicts economic expedience and prevents the formation of competitive market structures. However, in our conditions this apparent evil alleviates the dangerous consequences of structural transformations and averts an upsurge in mass unemployment.

In Masarskiy's opinion, we fit into generally accepted civilized frameworks to such a small extent that the medicines of this civilization are little suited to us; nor, however, are its diseases lethal for us.

"We will survive simply because we are very big. We are part of the economic universe. And we do not have to knock at the doors of the world community that have hitherto been firmly shut to us. We will get by not because of our resources or our missile technologies, but simply by dint of our mass. The boundless capacity of our market. Especially if we create our own gold-backed hard currency, like the "chervonets" [10-ruble note in circulation 1922-1947] of the NEP [New Economic Policy] period, which everyone will try to get their hands on..."

Other "roundtable" participants also spoke of the traditional Russian "uniqueness," the impossibility of applying to it economic models that are accepted in the West. For example, Vladilen Martynov, director of the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations, pointing to the fact that even inflation in our country is not the same as in the United States, or, let us suppose, West Europe. Our ruble inflates more in the manner of Latin American currencies with their chronic diseases which are not easily cured. Hence the battle with this ill is our first concern.

In confirmation of the fact that Russian inflation bears a profoundly original character, Mikhail Lapshin, president of the Brokers' Trading House, cited an example from his own practice. About six months ago stock brokers decided to check the authenticity of 10-ruble banknotes. From an extremely large mass of "redbacks" loaded into a special machine the proportion that proved to be genuine was...23 percent. Thus counterfeiters are making a "commensurate contribution" to the nonpayments crisis which has overtaken the country.

Lapshin considers the most severe problem today to be the plunder of Russia's energy and raw material resources and the domination of mafia structures in its

economy. Petrakov, for example, singles out from all other ills the monopolization of our economy. Zatulin is depressed by the calamitous situation of inhabitants of northern regions: Navigation will soon be impossible, and people will be left virtually without supplies of fuels and foodstuffs until spring. Samara entrepreneur Boris Volkov is primarily worried by the small numbers and the timidity of the embryonic stratum of private owners.

The firm which Volkov heads produces concentrated feeds, guaranteeing its clients a certain weight gain in their cows and hogs. The business is rapidly developing, attracting investors even from the United States and West Europe, dragging into its orbit thousands of farms throughout the CIS. But the feebly privatized structures in the agrarian sector are poorly susceptible to the new. People in them are frequently not interested in the results of labor, which leads to the squandering of concentrated feeds and grain and sharply reduces stock breeding productivity. The businessmen deems it feasible in principle to stop importing grain rightaway and, what is more, to export it instead, thereby bringing forward the solution of the problems with hard currency and, therefore, inflation.

The economic union recently established between the countries of the CIS was the topic of a separate discussion at the "roundtable." Everyone expressed support for it, but rated its prospects with varying degrees of optimism. It was stressed that Russia should at all costs shun its normal role of universal "wet nurse": Trade exchange within the union should be strictly equivalent. The feasibility of this task, however, depends on the correct choice of currency policy. The fear was expressed that, under pressure by states belonging to the ruble zone, the Russian Government and the Central Bank, which is now subordinate to it, will pave the way for not always justifiable credit emission, diluting Russia's relatively thick financial blood with the relatively thin blood of its comrades-in-arms. A gold-backed collective hard currency unit like the ECU would help to resolve this problem.

However, Gennadiy Ni-Li, vice president of the Tiross Investment Company, remarked that it would not be a bad idea to first organize an economic union within Russia itself—especially in the sphere of budget and tax policy. And well-known macroeconomist Professor Vilyam Azar, who now holds the post of deputy chairman of the Russian Committee for Tourism, cautiously advised that too much would depend on which of the two concepts of economic development would gain the upper hand in the near future—monetarist or Keynesian.

And what lies in store for us? Nikolay Petrakov considers the main task to be the structural overhaul of the economy. Close in sense to this was the reply of Yevgeniy Saburov, who calls for the uncompromising closure of inefficient production units. Vladimir Bashmachnikov pins all his hopes on the adoption of new laws protecting private property, and Doctor of Economic Sciences Professor Viktor Belik on the establishment of good-neighborly contacts with Japan, which he considers to be the only country capable of seriously supporting us with credits and investments.

The point of view of our billionaire (in view of inflation, few people will be surprised by this title) Ivan Kivelidi, chairman of the Russian Government Council of Entrepreneurs and leader of the Free Trade Party is, as always, original. He believes that the situation in the economy will change for the better only after the present generation of political leaders is replaced and the supremacy of middle-ranking functionaries, who possess only one form of commodity—signing authority—comes to an end. Peaceful discussions between representatives of science, business, and the mass media will help to hasten this happy, crisis-free era.

Military & Space Issues

Yeltsin Approves Proposal To Investigate Militia Activities

PM2210165093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Marina Lebedeva and Leonid Nikitinskiy quoting letter from Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev and Human Rights Commission Chairman S. Kovalev to President Yeltsin and Yeltsin's reply: "Boris Yeltsin: 'I Agree With Your Proposals. Act on Them'"]

[Text] The editorial office has obtained a copy of a letter sent to President B. Yeltsin on 16 October, signed by Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev and S. Kovalev, chairman of the Human Rights Commission under the Russian Federation president.

The authors of the letter draw attention to instances of unjustified and humiliating detentions and the beating up of detainees at the militia organs on 3-4 October. Moscow's City Hall, Prosecutor's Office, and Internal Affairs Main Administration, in the view of the letter's authors, "sanctioned operations by the law enforcement organs in direct contravention of the Russian Federation Law 'On the State of Emergency' and the Edict 'On Additional Measures To Maintain the Emergency Regime in Moscow City.'" By way of illustration of such actions they cite, in particular, instances of the forcible eviction from the capital of refugees from armed conflict zones who were registered as guests with their relatives and friends and had committed no violations of public order or other unlawful actions." [no opening quotation marks as published] "It is an outrage that the normative acts in question (that is, the instructions regulating such actions by militia staffers—editor's note) were not published, and neither citizens nor social organizations are able to obtain the text of these documents."

The letter's authors are also concerned about developing trends in lawmaking activity, as illustrated by the appearance of draft edicts—drawn up, in particular, at Moscow City Hall—which "constitute a serious deviation from norms governing the protection of rights and Russia's international commitments and have alarmed the Russian and international public."

In this connection A. Kozyrev and S. Kovalev, to conclude their letter, formulated some proposals, which we cite in full:

"1) That the General Prosecutor's Office be instructed, in conjunction with the Human Rights Commission under the Russian Federation president, urgently to conduct an investigation into all instances of the abuse of authority by staffers of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], Security Ministry, and Defense Ministry which took place in Moscow in connection with the imposition of the state of emergency and curfew, and to report within a week on the measures adopted.

"2) That the General Prosecutor's Office be instructed, in conjunction with the Human Rights Commission under the Russian Federation president and the Justice Ministry and Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation, within three days to check all enactments issued by the Moscow City government in implementation of presidential edicts on the state of emergency to verify their compliance with Russian legisation, and to adopt measures appropriate to the Russian Federation's international commitments.

"3) That the General Prosecutor's Office be instructed to prepare within a week materials relating to the legal banning of parties, social organizations, and publications whose activity was suspended in accordance with presidential edicts, and to submit them for examination by the judicial authorities.

"4) That the General Prosecutor's Office be instructed, in conjunction with the MVD, the Security Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry, to ensure access by representatives of the International Red Cross to those being held in custody in connection with the events in Moscow 3-4 October this year.

"5) That the public be informed of the measures being adopted by the president."

On 19 October President B. Yeltsin appended a resolution to A. Kozyrev's and S. Kovalev's letter:

"To A.I. Kazannik, A.V. Kozyrev, and S.A. Kovalev: I agree with your proposals. Act on them."

Army To Assess Troops' Conduct

LD2510193393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Russian Army's prosecutor's office has set up a special group of officers to look into grievances about troops' behavior during the crushing of the parliamentary revolt in Moscow early this month. The decision comes in response to an instruction from the Russian president following an initiative from Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Head of the President's Human Rights Commission Sergey Kovalev, a source close to the prosecuting office told Interfax.

The two men had appealed to Yeltsin for official inquiries into all cases of office abuse by members of the Interior, Defense and Security Ministries.

The source denied any incidents of office abuse by troops involved in crushing the parliamentary rebellion.

Grachev, Military Leaders Assess Exercises, Cuts

LD2210215093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A conference has taken place at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, attended by Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, and his deputies, the commanders of the branches of the armed forces and the military districts. The results of the Vostok, Zapad, and Tsentr [East, West and Center] exercises, during which the direction of the strategic and nuclear forces, the repulsion of an enemy air or space attack, and a number of other matters were worked out, were considered at the meeting. Plans and assignments for military training in the 1994-95 academic year were also updated. Problems linked to the supply of troops with military equipment and weapons and the work of the logistic system were also discussed. In connection with the serious economic situation in the country, those at the conference looked at the possibility of additional cuts and optimizing the coordination and staff structure of the Russian armed forces.

Deputy Defense Minister Views Arms Program

MK2310112193 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 4

[Ilya Bulavinov report under "Defense Ministry Comments on Military Doctrine" rubric: "There Will Be Fewer Weapons But They Will Be Better"]

[Text] Discussion of the military and technical aspects of the future Russian military doctrine is being completed at the Defense Ministry. Last week First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin held a number of conferences with district and fleet commanders on plans for financing defense orders for 1994 and the current financing and technical equipment of troops. Prior to that, in an exclusive interview with KOMMERSANT-DAILY, Andrey Kokoshin agreed to comment on the provisions of the defense department's military-technical policy.

The main provisions of the military technical policy were approved at a government session chaired by Boris Yeltsin in May 1992 following a report by Andrey Kokoshin. This document became the foundation for the defense department in defining the strategy for producing military equipment. One of the priorities in military policy is optimization of the types [optimizatsiya tipazha] of equipment ordered, which has already resulted in a two- to three- fold reduction in the number of arms types ordered in some branches and also a reduction in operating costs. A significant part of armored and air equipment, antiaircraft missile complexes, and battleships are being modernized. On the

whole, the military technical policy of the Defense Ministry is aimed at creating an optimal balance between developing weapons of the 21st century and modernization of what has already proven itself for the troops.

Andrey Kokoshin noted that "Russia is not abandoning the development and production of world-level weapons." According to him, arms co-production arrangements will be preserved with enterprises in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and other CIS states.

A new long-term arms program was presented by the Defense Ministry to the government in July 1993. For a number of reasons, however, this program has not yet been approved and therefore no possibilities for financing specific programs have been determined, which substantially complicates the Defense Ministry's activity.

The arms program provides in particular for completing the development of and adopting combat and transport combat helicopters designed by the Mil and Kamov Design Bureaus (Mi-28, Mi-40, and V-80); equipping fighters with effective means of individual protection, coded communication means, and compact automated control systems; and developing means of electronic warfare. All in all, the proportion of spending on the "information branch" of the arms program will increase to 30 to 35 percent as compared with 20 to 25 percent in the previous program.

During the elaboration of the arms program the main research and development plans were analyzed, as was the progress in building and equipping ships and missile complexes. The adoption of the arms program, according to Defense Ministry experts, is being delayed owing to the imperfect coordination mechanism in various departments but most importantly because of uncertainty over the levels of financing by the year. In working out the arms program, the Defense Ministry anticipated that the main problems would arise precisely over determining the level of financing.

In spite of this, up to now the government has not made a decision on the level of defense orders in 1994, on which the overall arms program also depends to a large extent. Even so it is clear already at this stage that there will be no increase in spending on arms and military equipment procurement, research and development projects, as the Defense Ministry and the State Committee on the Defense Industry have insisted.

It is also noteworthy that the new program has for the first time been oriented not toward a centralized economic structure and unlimited state subsidies, but toward direct and mutually advantageous cooperation of the Defense Ministry and industry. The ministry will conclude direct contracts with enterprises in the defense sector, allocating funds for specific programs and projects. The command of armed forces branches and military districts and many enterprise directors are against the restoration of the former system of the military industrial complex whereby unwanted arms systems or those failing to meet the requisite quality level were imposed on the Defense Ministry.

Military Doctrine May Trigger Defense Ministry Purge

MK2210140193 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No.14/16, 22-28 Oct 93 (signed to press 21 Oct) p 3

[Rodion Morozov report under the "Rumors and Facts" rubric: "Generals To Be Fired?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] **Deputies are a good thing, but it is better to do without them**

It should not be ruled out that the planned reshuffles in the Armed Forces will be linked to the adoption of a new military doctrine, scheduled for next week. Under the pretext of changing the existing notion of "the enemy," it is planned to cut jobs pinpointed earlier at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff. The matter of halting work in some of the key areas is also on the agenda. Under the pretext of these "cuts" and "halts" it will not be difficult to remove from sight some persons who do not suit the top brass. (For instance, the defense minister has seven deputies. It is highly likely that their number will be substantially reduced.)

One can have his own opinion, but this is not desirable

We learned from well-informed sources that at the Defense Ministry's collegium meeting last week some of its members gave extremely negative assessments of Russian army units' involvement in the assault on the House of Soviets. An opinion was voiced that allegedly the army was deliberately compromised by being dragged into the forceful settlement of the conflict between the president and the dissolved Supreme Soviet. Those mentioned as disagreeing with the stance taken during the October events by the defense minister include Deputy Defense Minister Boris Gromov; Valeriy Mironov, chief of the General Staff's Personnel Administration; Petr Deynekin, Air Force commander-in-chief; and Yevgeniy Podkolzin, Airborne Troops commander-in-chief.

P.S. Presumably, we will be able to find out whether this information is true soon after the new military doctrine is adopted.

Chernomyrdin Pledges 'Considerable Support' to Space Industry

LD2210224093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 22 TASS—The Russian Government will render considerable support to the national aero-space complex, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told correspondents today when visiting the Energiya scientific-production amalgamation in the Moscow region.

"I think we should render material support to the aero-space complex and help it to preserve skilled personnel and plants," Chernomyrdin told ITAR-TASS.

The main task of the Russian aero-space industry is "to preserve the potential it accumulated over years. Future generations will not pardon us if we lose it. That is why, no matter how hard it might be the government will find ways to preserve the potential and personnel", stressed the government head. In his words, "the government should take heart to support the branch."

Asked whether the Russian Buran shuttle will be launched again after works related to it were stopped in summer, 1993, due to financial difficulties, the premier said it will.

Chernomyrdin called for the support of Commonwealth governments to plants-partners of Russian aero-space enterprises. He said if these plants break away from the production system not only Russia but also Commonwealth states will be affected.

When visiting the Energiya scientific-production amalgamation, Chernomyrdin toured the amalgamation museum, acquainted himself with comprehensive tests of piloted spacecraft and Mir orbiting station modules and the functioning of "flexible re-adjusted automated system to process super-complex mechanical units with a long-term production cycle."

The premier also visited the workshop of Soyuz TM and Progress M spacecraft assembly and conversion productions of the amalgamation and met heads and specialists of the Russian space complex.

The meeting discussed state financing and support of the branch as this is done in all world space nations, said head of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Koptev. The interlocutors also focused on "national programs and national interests as regards the Russian-U.S. space cooperation documents signed in August in the U.S.A.," he said.

Deputy Finance Minister Favors 'Squeezing' Defense Budget

PM2210143693 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Oct 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Pelts account of remarks by Deputy Finance Minister Aleksandr Pochinok: "Supertough Budget: What Does It Mean for the Army? Russian Federation Deputy Finance Minister Aleksandr Pochinok Answers This Question"]

[Text] [Pochinok] There are several important and, I will emphasize, objective circumstances which simply demand an increase in military expenditure. I will name just the most important ones—the change in the very structure of the Russian Armed Forces in connection with the elaboration of military doctrine; the regrouping of the troops and their withdrawal from abroad; conversion; the new manning system, i.e. service under contract; servicemen's social protection and associated expenditure, and, finally, the troops' participation in numerous regional conflicts. All these factors objectively affect growth in military spending.

Nevertheless, under such very difficult conditions the state has reduced military expenditure this year—we, the parliamentary commission which I head, and the government (our positions coincided fully here) have cut spending on arms purchases by a factor of almost six, and reduced, relatively speaking, the military share of the budget. We have reduced production of certain types of arms by a factor of 80-100. I will be frank—we have squeezed the military budget as far as possible, and we are squeezing it now. I never tire of repeating that I have long been a champion of reducing it.

How and why? There simply is no alternative today. One way to reduce military expenditure is still possible—a reduction in the troop strength. We must gradually achieve a small, mobile, strong army which, naturally, will cost less than the present one.

As for the planned military expenditure for next year, the sum of 6 trillion rubles [R] is being proposed . I realize that any army financier will tell me that more is needed—R8-9 trillion. I fully allow a certain increase is possible, since I can see how we are, strictly speaking, cutting to the quick. Yet it is necessary to take a realistic look and to correlate the share of overall financial expenditure in Russia with military spending. If we plan to allocate 15 percent to the countryside, 4-5 percent to science, 2 percent to culture, and 20 percent to defense, then we, i.e. the state, will not survive. We simply cannot afford the previous military expenditure. I can guarantee that it amounted to 30-40 percent of the entire state budget or, if you count up scrupulously, even 50 percent. Today the figures are of quite a different order.

Naturally, the new defense budget will be ordered according to the principles of austerity and precise accounting. Money will go, above all, into the key areas—into structural changes in the economy and social support for the population. But this certainly does not mean that the Army will be abandoned to the mercy of fate. This must not be done, since it could lead to tremendous political upheavals. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank-you to our Army, which did not respond to populist appeals: to side with us, and all problems will be solved. This is absurd! "Historical competition"—who will give more, who will pay more—leads to an impasse.

Yes, we are making the maximum economies, even in military spending. But with worthy provision for servicemen. This is an essential condition of shaping the military budget.

There were many problems formerly (and there still are) in fulfilling even those items of military expenditure whose fulfillment is obligatory. For instance, paying the servicemen. It is well known that during the so-called "great cash crisis" many units received no money for months on end. That is intolerable. And the "cure" is simple—strict payment schedules. This operates very

effectively in any country. If we also bring in such a schedule, I hope there will be no such delays with payment in future. The serviceman should receive what he is entitled to on time and in full.

Another important subject that is also on servicemen's minds is the future of laws—including laws on financial problems—that were adopted earlier or were being drafted in the committees of the former parliament. My view is that the vast majority of them should continue to operate. The main tragedy was not that they were the "wrong" laws or that different laws were needed. The tragedy was that instead of implementing the laws people played on political interests and ambitions. For political ends, decisions were adopted that could have reduced us to an absurd position. For instance, on 1 October it was proposed to index all expenditure on the basis of inflation, almost doubling it—and let someone else worry about how to fulfill these decisions.

Furthermore, we have a vital interest in the speediest adoption of new financial and economic laws which had already been drawn up but were not adopted by parliament. They were simply postponed and never examined. Some of them will be adopted now by presidential edicts, the rest are up to the deputies of the new parliament. I think the Federal Assembly deputies should adopt as early as January-February a great many ready-made laws that were agreed on earlier between their authors and the government and are in line with the country's economic course. The common thrust here is a tough budget with no "fat," but making provision for all necessary state expenditure, including military needs.

Speaking of the military budget, I must mention conversion. There is just one problem here, in my view—to ensure that conversion does not turn into a convulsion. What does this require?

First. The Defense Ministry must define clearly which defense enterprises are needed in the long term. Everyone should have a clear idea of what he will be doing, and how, in the immediate future. Pinning hopes on winning an order—to produce such-and-such a number of teapots or tractors—that is not conversion. You need certainty. This is very tough, but it is necessary today.

The second avenue is a clear definition of resources to help those enterprises that are completely changing the structure of their production. But this means helping those who understand and know how to earn money, who are prepared for it, but who just need a boost, some support.

The third thing is the weapons trade. We used to hold one of the leading places in the world. Now our sales are an order of magnitude lower. There are various reasons for this, but it is necessary to find and tackle world markets and work systematically, for the long term.

I would like also to carry out these and many other tasks as a deputy on the State Duma. In the election contest, I support those who, apart from a clear action program, have all the means to implement it today—people, the necessary structures and practical skills. As for me personally, first and foremost I would like to achieve something to change pension legislation and promote the wage reform which is long overdue, to ensure targeted social protection, and then in the long term there is the question of a sensible budget and a sensible tax system.

I am convinced that the present changes will affect the state of the Army too. I see it, in future, well trained, well armed, and holding a worthy place in society. The most important thing I want to say to the military is this: The reduction of the military budget does not mean a reduction in expenditure on the individual serviceman. My view is that expenditure on him should increase.

Air Defense Forces Tasks, Problems Noted

PM2210114193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Oct 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Ivanov report followed by commentary by Colonel General Viktor Sinitsyn, chief of Air Defense Forces Main Staff: "How Many Spy Satellites Are There in Space Today? These and Other Questions Were Answered for Your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondent at the Air Defense Forces' Central Command Post"]

[Text] The Air Defense Forces High Command is a top secret installation. In order to gain entry to its holy of holies—the central command post—you have to stop several times at various checkpoints. And these days the guard details are double-strength, paying particular attention to permits and checking vehicles over thoroughly.

...A high-speed elevator carries you down into a concrete realm bursting with state-of-the-art equipment. Down below we are met by a soldier kitted out in combat gear and carrying an assault rifle. There are also guards in other parts of this underground city. The almost deserted and dimly lit corridors and the extremely heavy, hermetically sealed metal doors induce a vague sense of anxiety.

Admittedly, this passes once you get to the combat operations control room. Conditioners hum gently and a constellation of lights wink on and off on the apparatus. There are comfortable workstations and dozens of telephones that ring from time to time. An enormous chart occupying an entire wall shows the state borders of the former Union and the noticeably shorter borders of the Russian Federation.

The immediately striking thing is the large number of aircraft they are picking up.

"During a 24-hour period," Major General Valentin Moskalev, chief of the central command post, tells me, "the Air Defense Forces track approximately 1,000 aircraft on internal air routes. Traffic is also heavy close to our borders. In the first week of October alone the duty forces located and tracked 1,682 foreign aircraft. Of these 22 were reconnaissance aircraft. Orions, Caravelles, and Atlantiques fly along the edge of Russian territory over the waters of the Barents Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Sea of Okhotsk, and the Sea of Japan. They

come from various countries: Sweden, the United States, France, Japan, and Britain... And of course they are probing Russian territory with powerful radar not just out of idle curiosity. Our specialists not only "keep track" of them but even recognize them by voice during radio exchanges between the intelligence officer and his base.

But, odd though it may seem, the airways are still less cluttered than space, where there are more than 7,000 objects. At the central command post it is possible to obtain up-to-the-minute and exhaustive information about every one of them. Thus central command post veteran Reserve Colonel Vyacheslav Shchelchkov told me that there are 360 operating artificial satellites currently orbiting the Earth, most of which have a military application. Several dozen spy satellites are constantly carrying out radio, radiotechnical, radar, and electro-optical reconnaissance.

I was interested to know whether the air and space situation had changed at all when Russia was on the brink of civil war. Lieutenant General Yevgeniy Makoklyuyev, first deputy chief of the Air Defense Forces General Staff, found the relevant notes in his log and observed: There were no violations of the state border during this period. Although, since foreign aircraft, including military aircraft, were flying very close to our territory, during that week 14 surface-to-air missile divisions were put on alert status one, 85 additional radar stations were brought on line, and the number of fighters on duty in the air increased fourfold.

Yevgeniy Dmitriyevich explained that this was a normal situation for the Air Defense Forces. A few years earlier, for example, the figures would have been far higher.

I will not presume to judge the past. But I think that today, having lost several separate fully equipped armies and corps as a result of the cuts and the sovereignization of former Union republics, and when an air defense system that was built up over decades has been disrupted and a suffers a chronic shortage of personnel, the Air Defense Forces are having a hard time. In these conditions it is only possible to carry out the combat task of protecting Russia's airspace by working flat out, as they say.

Judge for yourself: In September alone the duty aviation forces were put on heightened alert 333 times and additional radar stations were brought on line 374 times. The state border has been violated nine times in 1993. Light aircraft, mainly from Poland and Finland, have strayed into our airspace for a few minutes. Specialists believe that these violations are basically not premeditated, although how anyone is supposed to know this... Here is an example that occurred 3 August.

On that day a violating aircraft entered our airspace from Polish territory southwest of Kaliningrad. Duty fighter interceptor aircraft took off to clarify the situation and classify the target. Soon came the report: "I can see a single-engine M-20 without any identification marks. It is not reacting to the 'Follow me' command."

After warning shots were fired, the violator started to climb and four minutes later entered Lithuanian airspace...

Overflights by light aircraft are logged, the aircraft are offered assistance to leave our airspace, and the reasons for the incident are established through diplomatic channels or border commissioners.

At the same time it has to be said bluntly that the Air Defense Forces currently do not have enough helicopters to put pressure on slow targets. But is this the only problem?

I recently visited the state's outposts in the Far North, the Arctic, and Chukotka. There are dozens of poorly served Air Defense subunits, mainly on islands and in inaccessible places "which can only be reached by helicopter." Many "outposts" are being axed: There is neither the money nor the potential for providing normal basic necessities. With their elimination the lower limit of the radar field is significantly increased, and this is a very difficult problem.

Subunits where there are just two or three soldiers performing compulsory military service—or even none at all—instead of the standard number of 60-70 are a common phenomenon these days. An officer sweeping a parade ground or unloading coal for the regimental boiler is also a common sight. Nevertheless, the establishment of the Russian Air Defense Forces, which are only two years old, is continuing. The forces are being reformed, a new air defense system is being established that takes account of the changed borders, and new groupings of forces and resources are being established. The Air Defense Forces are being reequipped with new technology. Regiments are being supplied with the state-of-the-art S-300 surface-to-air missile system and Su-27 and MiG-31 fighters. Housing is being constructed, albeit slowly, because there are almost 25,000 families without apartments. In line with the new tasks and opportunities, approaches to combat training organization are being changed....

...The day is not far off when Russia's air defense will become a genuine guarantor of state security. This is only possible, it seems, in conditions of economic and political stability in a country that sticks to a definite course of reforming its Armed Forces. In previous years there have been numerous proposals to change the country's air defense blueprint. Unfortunately not for the better, experts believe. The right way, as it were, has now been outlined. The troops ensuring the security of our air borders sincerely believe that there will be no such mistakes in future. But where are the guarantees of this? The main thing is how in these conditions to resolve the difficult tasks which nobody else is going to take off the Air Defense Forces' hands.

[Colonel General Viktor Sinitsyn] At the moment the state of the Russian Federation's Air Defense corresponds to the situation in which any structure in the throes of reform would find itself.

As a result of changes in the country's geographical situation, a certain section of our state border is now poorly covered by air defense resources. This applies primarily to the western and southern regions, where Russia borders on the Baltic republics, the Transcaucasus, and Central Asia. In these sectors the characteristics of the radar field do not totally satisfy today's requirements.

Of late we have considerably strengthened our border with the Transcaucasus and the Baltic countries by utilizing subunits withdrawn from Commonwealth states and redeploying them in central regions. The situation is not quite so rosy with regard to our border with Kazakhstan. We need to top up our subunits located in this region with men and materiel.

Yes, we are cutting back on subunits in the North because we can now carry out reconnaissance and monitoring of the airspace in these inaccessible regions using specialized aircraft. In the longer term space resources will be able to deal successfully with this task, but not everything depends on us. Thus, although plenty of time has elapsed since the adoption of the Law on the State Border, the issue of organizing air traffic and flights across the border has not been resolved.

Nor have air corridors been properly defined or equipped. And last, changes have not been made to the structure for organizing zonal and regional air traffic centers. What will this lead to?

Flights over Kaliningrad Oblast are now already being handled by foreign centers in Riga and Vilnius. Consequently they give permission for foreign aircraft to fly over Russia without always notifying us. So we have to scramble duty forces to clarify the situation. This may be what happened in the example you cited above of a violation of the state border by a single-engined M-20 aircraft which got the "OK" from the zone center at Riga.

Now for a few words about the reform of the Air Defense Forces. It is intended to use them as a basis for establishing an air-space defense system. This is an initiative by the defense minister which is supported both by us and military analysts. Time dictates the need to formulate completely new approaches to the organization of the way strikes from both air and space are repulsed. Therefore an extremely prestigious scientific research group has been established which has been tasked with working out the said blueprint and reporting on the proposals to the Ministry of Defense leadership.

Regarding the troops' social problems, they are the same as in other branches of the Armed Forces. Despite the difficulties, our personnel are coping with the tasks that have been set.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Interviewed During Yaroslavl Visit

PM2610112193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Gamov report, incorporating report on interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Yaroslavl on 23 October: "How Yaroslav the Wise Became Boris Yeltsin's Adviser"]

[Text] There are two legends about Yaroslav the Wise: According to the first, one day the prince left Rostov the Great to tour his lands, encountered a she-bear on his way and killed her. It is said that, in commemoration of this, the city fortress of Yaroslavl was built and the bear became his symbol. According to the second story, there was a time when this location was the site of a "bear's den" inhabited by robbers who inflicted great losses on traveling merchants. The prince ordered his host to wipe out this nest of robbers and erect a settlement with a permanent garrison.

It is hard to tell which of these two legends is closer to the truth. Furthermore Yaroslav, who lived about 978-1054 AD and was the son of Russia's baptist Vladimir, did not acquire his reputation of wisdom after overcoming the "force of the accursed." The grand prince acquired the second part of his name because he was the first Slav ruler to compose the "Russian Law" [Russkaya Pravda]—a code of precise and definite written laws. Historians attest that this was a most outstanding legal document at that time. Incidentally, this ancient Russian code was very lenient and humane. It ruled out the death penalty altogether. During the period of disturbances in civic relations, Yaroslav the Wise's code played an important role in regulating them.

Presumably it was Yaroslav's wise actions rather than the bloody legends about him that brought Boris Yeltsin to Yaroslavl last Saturday [23 October] to unveil a monument to the grand prince. Contrary to many people's expectations, the president did not utter a single word about the "current situation" in his brief speech in the city's central square, but simply read out to the public a historical lecture about Yaroslav. Nonetheless, it was easy to guess that, when speaking of events which occurred centuries ago, Boris Nikolayevich had primarily in mind our present turbulent life, which abounds with events that are far more dramatic than those which worried Yaroslav the Wise a long time ago.

Naturally, those assembled around the monument responded appropriately to the president's words. When Boris Nikolayevich said that the tragic history of Yaroslav's family is imprinted on the Russian people's memory and made uncomplimentary remarks about Yaroslav's brother, Svyatopolk the Accursed, who was forever accursed by the people for having started a fratricidal war, those assembled shouted in unison: "Shame on Svyatopolk!" In contrast, the words that "the names of Prince Boris and Prince Gleb, who fell victim to family and state discord, will live forever in the memory" evoked cries of "Hurrah!" And Boris Nikolayevich concluded: "The lesson of that time, which has been confirmed repeatedly in later times, is that no end, no matter how well-meant it may be, can justify the means of treason, duplicity, and perfidy."

It is evidently in this contemporary context that we should perceive the key sentences of the president's lecture: "Yaroslav the Wise has gone down in history as the unifier of Russian lands.... He was truly a grand

prince of all Rus, well aware of the vital importance of the state's unity and integrity."

As soon as I got an opportunity to speak to the head of state, I followed his example and also began with historical parallels, asking him the following question:

"Yaroslav the Wise's 'Russian Law' enabled him to preserve and consolidate Russia; will Boris Yeltsin's 'Russian Law' enable him to do the same?"

Having realized that I had Russia's new Fundamental Law in mind, the president said:

"I believe that it will be a truly democratic Constitution. First, it will be adopted by nationwide vote in a referendum. Second, the draft has been compiled on the basis of the most advanced Western standards of democracy. I, therefore, believe that the new Constitution will be one of the most advanced in the world...."

Asked by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent to comment on the reaction by the leaders of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan to the draft Fundamental Law now under preparation, the president said:

"The point is that, for a long time, we were totally unable to 'reconcile' the territories and republics on the question of who should be given more sovereignty. I believe that all Federation components should have equal rights in mutual relations with the federal organs of power. This will be reflected in one of the Constitution's articles."

The president was not especially eager to expand on his views of the forthcoming elections:

"How can anyone make any forecasts today? A real struggle lies ahead...."

Asked whether the new parliament will end up being the same as its predecessor, he replied:

"No. Judging by the names of the contenders who have already consented to stand for election, the new parliamentarians will have higher intellects and higher cultural standards—something that we actually need."

I would describe as genuinely wise Boris Yeltsin's reply to my question concerning the veracity of press reports that a presidential edict on the reburial of Lenin's body is being prepared and that the relevant draft already exists.

"There is no such draft, there is no such edict," Boris Yeltsin declared categorically. "First, let the public decide what should happen. It is working on this issue."

...A detail sticks in my mind: The city leaders asked Yeltsin to pull the cord and, when the shroud came down, I got the feeling that he gave the bronze Yaroslav a long and pensive look. The prince held the Yaroslavl Kremlin in the palm of one hand, while the other hand firmly held the grip of the sheathed sword.

Moscow Acts on Yeltsin Edict to Reform

LD2510115093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 25 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree to support the efforts made by the government of Moscow and the Moscow regional council of people's deputies to reform bodies of state authority and local government in the city of Moscow and in the Moscow region. The president approved a set of documents setting forth the main principles of forming and organising work of the representative bodies of state authority and of experimenting with local government in the Moscow region during the transitional period.

In accordance with the president's decree, the city and the region will elect their own city and regional dumas (legislatures). The city duma will have 35 seats, the regional duma will have fifty seats, to which deputies will be elected for a two-year term. Eligible for election will be Russian citizens permanently residing in Moscow and the Moscow region. They will work on a permanent basis and will not be allowed to engage in other paid jobs, except for teaching, research and other creative endeavour.

The two dumas will have as their prerogatives the right to approve local budgets and reports on their fulfilment, to impose local taxes, duties, dues and other payments, to determine the order for the use of land, and to introduce changes to the administrative and territorial division of the city and the region. Both dumas will have the right to initiate legislature at the federal level.

The documents also determine mutual relations between the two dumas on the one hand and the bodies of executive power in the city of Moscow and the Moscow region on the other hand.

Elections to the new representative bodies of power in Moscow and the Moscow region will be held on December 12, 1993.

The decree was signed on October 24 with the aim to accelerate stabilisation of the political situation in the region.

According to the presidential press service, Yeltsin took into account the public interest in regional legislation in the field of state building, as well as the lack of model provisions for the formation and organisation of local bodies of power.

Moscow Government To Be Reformed With Less Deputies

LD2510195993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Elections to the city and oblast Duma will take place simultaneously with the federal ones on 12 December. According to the election proposal, the city Duma will have not 500 deputies, as

was the case with Mossovet, but 35, and the oblast 50 deputies. They will be elected for two years. [passage omitted]

Moscow Subway in 'Large-Scale' Civil Defense Exercise

PM2510145793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 1

[Andrey Pavlov report: "Barrikadnaya Station on the Frontline of Civil Defense. This Training Is Timeless Because It Is Dependable"]

[Text] Last night the Moscow Subway Transport Authority and the capital's Civil Defense Staff carried out large-scale and comprehensive civil defense force exercises. All 22 stations on Zamoskvoretskaya Line were "defended."

It is really quite difficult to imagine that there is anybody in Russia who is unfamiliar with the sight of gas masks, casualties being rushed off on stretchers, the wail of drill air raid sirens, and so on. But in this instance, in line with the drill, Teatralnaya Station started cutting itself off from the outside world. The words "Citizens, Air Raid Warning" rang out, engines droned, and sheet steel shutters weighing several tonnes and located alongside the up escalators started rising slowly, cutting off the entrance. A bit hair-raising! According to a spokesman for the subway's special department, such exercises are carried out three times a year. At one time they were used to rehearse personnel actions in wartime, although nowadays the drills are increasingly often based on major accidents in the city.

We managed to take a stroll along the subway tunnels. If need be, one station can take 10,000 of the city's inhabitants should the situation above ground become awkward. This is by no means irrelevant, if you think back to the recent fire exchanges in Moscow and the fact that, in the final hours of the storming of the White House, Rutskoy called upon his fighter-pilot friends for help...

Petersburg City, Oblast Chiefs at Odds Over Merger

MK2210141493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Oct p 4

[Report by Sergey Slyusarenko and Anton Antonov-Ovseyenko, Jr.: "Conflict of Authorities in Petersburg and Oblast. Sobchak and Belyayev Propose That President's Edict Should Not Apply in Petersburg"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Speaking at the news conference that ended late in the evening of 20 October, Aleksandr Belyayev, chairman of the Petersburg Soviet [Petrosovet], detailed the results of a three-day (17-19 October) session of the Federal Commission for the Reform of Representative Power. A concurrent press conference, also devoted to the problems of reforming bodies of power, was held by Vadim Gustov, chairman of Leningrad Oblast Soviet.

Aleksandr Belyayev told the journalists at the press conference that "a draft edict of the Russian president 'On the Organization of Organs of Representative Authority of Components of the Federation' is now ready in the depths [v nedrakh] of the commission for the reform of representative power." Belyayev and Sobchak proposed, at one of the commission's sessions, what in fact amounts to making the yet unsigned edict inapplicable in St. Petersburg.

According to the draft edict, elections for local representative bodies of power of Russia should be held between December 1993 and March 1994. Mr. Sobchak and Mr. Belyayev, however, believe that this time frame is unacceptable for Petersburg, and elections for the city parliament there should be held at a later date, although before 12 June—the official date for the presidential elections. Both leaders besides believe that there should be a special presidential edict on supervising the reform of representative power in Petersburg.

Aleksandr Belyayev and Anatoliy Sobchak proposed in their statement "a reform of the administrative-territorial system" in Petersburg. Repeatedly spoken about over recent months has been the intention of the Petrosovet chairman and the mayor to merge the power structures of Petersburg and the oblast.

Such a prospect is most likely not to meet with the approval of Vladimir Gustov, chairman of the Leningrad Oblast Soviet. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, he mainly dwelled on his conflict with the leadership of the oblast administration. During the armed standoff of the federal authorities in Moscow, the Inner Soviet of Leningrad Oblast led by Mr. Gustov backed the actions of the Supreme Soviet disbanded by the president. It is obviously in this connection that Aleksandr Belyayev, head of the oblast administration, discontinued the functioning of the Inner Soviet and abolished the secretariat of the entire Leningrad Oblast Soviet. As was stated at the news briefing, Mr. Gustov responded to these actions by forwarding a protest to the oblast prosecutor.

Thus, the standoff between the representative and executive authorities of Leningrad Oblast will considerably hinder a possible union of its territory and bodies of power with those of Petersburg in the near future.

Petersburg Leaders Request City-Oblast Region Status

PM2210151793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Krayukhin report: "St. Petersburg Expected To Merge With Oblast To Form Single Component of Federation"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—At a press conference in the Marinskiy Palace St. Petersburg Soviet Chairman Aleksandr Belyayev said that he and City Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak have asked the Federal State Committee to

draw up documents for St. Petersburg and the oblast to merge to form a single administrative-territorial unit.

The formation of a unified component of the Federation within the city and oblast borders would make it easier to resolve many economic and social tasks in an optimum manner—something that leaders of St. Petersburg's executive and representative authorities have been advocating for a long time now. Naturally the inhabitants of the region, who will most likely be asked to voice their opinion on this 12 December, will not have the last word on the matter.

The St. Petersburg Soviet leader and the city's mayor also advocated that elections to the new organ of local representative power be held in the city on the Neva 12 June next year. This issue will probably be clarified once and for all by the Russian president's edict on St. Petersburg, whose promulgation is now awaited here on the Neva's banks.

Editor Expressing Anti-Presidential Views Dismissed

LD2310042193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Groznyy October 22 TASS—Chechnya has tightened control over the mass media, including both opposition and official mass media. At yesterday's session of the Chechen Government Musa Temishev, editor-in-chief of the government newspaper ICHKERIYA was relieved of his duties. He was accused of taking an anti-government and anti-presidential stand outlined in his article "Wretched Days".

Not so long ago Temishev was described in Chechnya as "a chief architect of the Chechen revolution." He had been among close supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev long before he came to power. But after the crisis in Chechnya worsened Temishev changed his position a little which was followed by his ouster.

There are almost no professional journalists left in the Chechen media nowadays. Only a few newspapers have hardly survived while radio and television programmes have become extremely dull.

Dudayev Says Khasublatov Chechen 'Hero'

LD2310042793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1856 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Nechayev]

[Text] Moscow October 22 TASS—After the arrest of former Russian parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov he was hailed as a national hero of the rebel Chechen Republic, which declared full independence from Russia and refused to vote in the December elections to the new federal legislature.

"Now Ruslan is a hero of the Chechen people", Chechnya's President Dzhokhar Dudayev told the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY newspaper on Friday.

After Chechnya's break with Moscow, Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen, was deprived of the status of a people's deputy by the republic which originally delegated him to the Russian federal parliament.

Dudayev, always in opposition to Khasbulatov, said that now there is a difference. "There is a civic duty and a national one. The whole world knows that national sentiments always prevail over civic feelings with Chechens", Dudayev said adding that small peoples like Chechens do not produce top-ranking statesmen very often.

Although Dudayev does not support the position of Khasbulatov, he believes the latter should not have been arrested. "His arrest will negatively tell on the situation in Russia. For the Chechen people he is a compatriot to be treated with compassion", Dudayev said. A movement for the release of Khasbulatov has emerged in the republic.

The president said some of Khasbulatov's supporters plan to stage mass disorder. "We are cutting them short", he said. Dudayev also warned against attempts to use force to free the former parliament chairman.

Dudayev denounced the deportation of the so-called "Caucasian" traders (including Chechens) from Moscow during the state of emergency. According to him, now Moscow and central Russia will probably face food shortages which can lead to new unrest.

Dudayev Blames Secret Services for Blasts in Chechnya

MK2710143993 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 14/16, 22-28 Oct 93 (signed to press 21 Oct) p 2

[Report on telephone interview with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev by Rodion Morozov under the "A Call to the President" rubric; date not given: "It Is Explosive in Chechnya"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A series of powerful explosions have thundered in Groznyy. Only a few houses in the city still have electricity and running water. Our correspondent reached Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev on the phone.

[Dudayev] I see what has happened as an act of sabotage aimed at undermining our republic's economy. The targets included the chemical and oil refining industries—the so-called hazardous production sectors. But, upon receiving timely information about the upcoming action, we managed to halt these enterprises on time. Otherwise, the damage done to the republic could have been irreparable.

I would not like to say now who did it. I will only say about the perpetrators that these were professionals, perfectly competent for their job. I know for sure that officials of the Russian Security Ministry who formerly supervised the entire electric power sector in the republic are presently in Chechnya. And those who were in charge of the operation knew the entire system of our power

sector more than well. So, it is up to you to draw conclusions. They used plastic time bombs with magnetic fasteners. It is well known that they are subject to particular control and cannot be found in "free circulation."

We think that what has happened is the act of those who do not want to see relations between Russia and Chechnya improve, who need a lengthy conflict, not durable peace. Of course, our domestic opposition was also involved. But, I repeat, a line can clearly be discerned which has been drawn by Russian special services, from which many opposition members "hail."

The situation in Chechnya remains tense. There is a great number of provocateurs of Russian origin in the republic who ostensibly fled here for fear of reprisals for their part in the Moscow events on the side of the dissolved parliament. They incite Chechen citizens to hold unauthorized rallies in support of Khasbulatov, call on the people to take part in continuous criminal actions. Naturally, we know the actual objectives of these people and are trying promptly to neutralize them.

Russia's actions with regard to Chechnya, its policy in the North Caucasus make any relations between it and Chechnya absolutely impossible.

[Morozov] Is Chechnya still refusing to nominate its candidate to the State Duma?

[Dudayev] Dear Slavic brothers, it is illegitimate in its very essence—an unconstitutional body of power with a status that is yet to be determined.

[Morozov] Don't you think, Dzhokhar Musayevich, that Chechnya's independent and singular stance may force Russia to take certain repressive measures?

[Dudayev] We have gotten used to this. We have been subjected to pressure from Russia for nearly 300 years already. It took efforts to impose economic, financial, and political blockades, to perpetrate endless provocations and acts of sabotage. Can anything be worse than our current relations? But you should not think that we regret anything. We have charted the right course, created a working program of the state's economic development. During this September alone, industrial production grew by 4.2 percent in the republic. We will solve our problems on our own. Only let no one stand in our way.

North Ossetian Situation Remains Complex

LD2410105293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0941 GMT 24 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz October 24 TASS—According to an estimate by the Security Council of North Ossetia, the operational situation in the state-of-emergency area on the territory of the republic remains complex but on the whole it is being controlled by Russia's peacekeeping force and local law enforcement agencies.

No ethnic clashes have been recorded in the region over the past 24 hours. At the same time military sources confirmed that there were 12 instances of firing on populated areas and army checkpoints there last night.

A regrouping of Russian Army units, stationed in the security zone, effected on an instruction from Vladimir Lozovoy, chief of the provisional administration on the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia made it possible to take under particular control the populated areas in North Ossetian districts which border on Ingushetia.

According to the North Ossetian Interior Ministry, the criminogenic situation in the republic remains extremely tense. Twelve crimes of varying gravity were recorded over the past 24 hours and five of them have been exposed.

Police patrols inspected more than 1,000 motor vehicles. Five firearms and hundreds of cartridges of various calibre were withdrawn from local residents.

In the town of Kartsa, where state-of-emergency regulations are in effect, police found a powerful explosive device planted by terrorists in a house and defused it.

In the town of Beslan in North Ossetia, a group of bandits attacked the interior minister's car at approximately 17.00 on October 23. There were a driver and an Interior Ministry patrolman in the car. The attackers seized authorised firearms from them and fled in a Zhiguli car without a number plate.

The co-chairmen of the mixed commission from North Ossetia and Ingushetia have presented recommendatory documents to the provisional administration, suggesting ways to settle the situation in Prigorodnyy district, and to resolve the problem of refugees and forced migrants. Vladimir Ugrovatov, member of the provisional administration in charge of the negotiating process and representative of the Russian State Committee for Federal Affairs, told ITAR-TASS.

A meeting between the chief of the provisional administration and the co-chairmen of the mixed commission, which was scheduled for October 23, has been postponed until after a congress of the peoples of North Ossetia, which is to be held in Vladikavkaz on October 29- 30. There is one item on the congress agenda—the sociopolitical situation in the republic.

North Ossetia and Ingushetia Still Uncompromising

MK2310123993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 3

[Natalya Pachegina report under the "North Caucasus" rubric: "Situation in State of Emergency Zone Remains Tense. North Ossetia Will Elect Its President"]

[Text] The conference with Russian Federation Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray to discuss the situation in the state of emergency zone (North Ossetia-Ingush Republic) held on 20 October was, according to an

eyewitness—Sergey Simakov, chief of the department for the affairs of Federation components of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Affairs of the Federation and Nationalities—brief and businesslike. The five-minute report by Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the Provisional Administration in the state of emergency zone, who arrived in Moscow, was exhaustively specific: a total disruption of deadlines and construction targets in Ingushetia and insignificant successes of the Russian Federation Government program. Following Lozovoy's report, Sergey Shakhray gave instructions to draft a government directive for the setting up of a special state commission. The commission is to take on-the-spot "sanctions" against negligent customers and general contractors who are undertaking, on the Russian Government's instructions, civilian and industrial construction projects on the territories of both republics.

A participant in this conference—Lozovoy, head of the Provisional Administration—while disinclined to dramatize the situation, nevertheless believes that the 8 billion rubles from the Russian taxpayers split equally between both republics could have been used to much greater advantage. The difficulties of staying inside the allocated construction budget in, say, Ingushetia, are explained (as an experienced economic manager he knows it well) by the fact that the republic above all has no production facilities to speak of. Lozovoy does not think that Ingushetia's choice of general contractors is very happy. They are design institutes from Groznyy whose potentials are immeasurably smaller than what the Russian Federation State Committee for Construction can do. Ingushetia's leaders—Tamerlan Diditov, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, whose professionalism is highly assessed by V. Lozovoy; and President Ruslan Aushev—according to the head of the Provisional Administration are well aware of the situation but, to put it mildly, are not free to make decisions. Foundations for five residential houses in Nazran, and a settlement for the migrants from Malgobek Rayon is all the construction achievements there are in Ingushetia. Vladimir Lozovoy also said that in Vladikavkaz or in Nazran numerous entrepreneurs who demand money for all sorts of projects are besetting him. As your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent realized, as representative of the Russian Government, the head of the Provisional Administration is guarding the interests of the Russian taxpayer: "I will only give money for a specific project: Russia gets it at too great a cost." V. Lozovoy generally believes that only by political decisions is it possible to normalize the situation brought about by the recent conflict. Among the latter he lists the readiness of both sides for "a sensible compromise." Seeing no real grounds for the "use of force" formula regarding the local territorial problem, the present head of the Provisional Administration thinks that one of the sides—the Ossetian side—should give up the idea "of the impossibility of living together" (fortunately, V. Lozovoy remarked, Vladikavkaz officials have renounced it but its destructive action is continuing in the minds of the people), while he thinks it would be reasonable for the other side—Ingushetia—to withdraw its territorial claims on its neighbors. In the meantime, Vladimir Lozovoy said, neither side to the conflict is demonstrating political flexibility. If it were not so, the head of the Provisional Administration thinks, the draft constitution of the Ingush Republic would not have contained such sharp formulas as in Articles 98 or 11 where Nazran is referred to as "a temporary center of the Ingush Republic," while "the return of territories" is formulated as the state's task.

The men in North Ossetia, where, as is known, the republic's commission on reform of bodies of power and local government was held on 21 October, "pay close attention to the 'voices in the provinces.'" For example, the first deputy chairman of the North Ossetian SSR Supreme Soviet summed up the suggestions sent to the commission from state bodies, public organizations, parties, movements, associations of citizens of the republic by saying that a presidency is the optimal form of a state and legal system for North Ossetia.

Varied Views Expressed on Ingush-Osset Situation

PM2210132393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Oct 93 p 3

[Andrey Nesterenko report: "Stalemate in the State of Emergency Zone"]

[Text] North Ossetia—At a joint news conference for North Ossetian and Ingush journalists held in Vladikavkaz, Vladimir Lazovoy, head of the interim administration in the state of emergency zone, described the situation prevailing in the region as a "stalemate." Winter is not far off, and approximately 100,000 refugees in both republics are living in abnormal conditions; they could very well become a "time bomb." Among a number of factors that could seriously aggravate the situation, Lazovoy named the impending anniversary of the bloody confrontation, when it cannot be ruled out that provocations will take place.

However, the head of the interim administration is in an optimistic frame of mind. The excuse for this optimism has been provided by the protocols signed by him and the two republics' leaders, A. Galazov and R. Aushev, which express a desire to continue the negotiating process. Stabilization can and should be reached only through the language of negotiations, not by firing assault rifles. The upcoming meetings at government level between North Ossetia and Ingushetia and the planned participation of the Ingush delegation in the Second Congress of North Ossetian Peoples may be regarded as undoubted steps forward in this direction.

Tuva Adopts New Constitution, Changes Name to Tyva

LD2210235593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The parliament of Russia's republic of Tuva meeting in the capital Kyzyl on Friday has approved a

new constitution after three days of discussion in parliamentary commissions and committees. From now on, it is to be called the Republic of Tyva, an Interfax correspondent reports.

The country is to have a 32-member working parliament, the Supreme Khural, instead of the Supreme Soviet and a supreme constitutional body, Grand Khural, which alone will have the authority to make constitutional amendments. All local councils are to be disbanded and replaced by various level khurals.

The new basic legislation comes into force on October 22 to be known as Constitution Day from now on.

The new Constitution is free from ideologies and meets the country's short and long range priorities. Parliamentary Chairman Kadryl Bichildey told Interfax, meaning Tyva's development and national and economic security.

The session also approved a package of new laws on general and local elections and the deputies' status.

Sakhalin Soviet Chairman Welcomes Coming Elections

OW2610003293 Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian 2005 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Address by Anatoliy Aksenov, chairman of the Sakhalin Oblast Soviet, at the meeting of the Sakhalin Oblast Soviet in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on 16 October; from the "As of This Hour" program—recorded]

[Text] Just look at the political situation in the country today. We do not have a higher legislative organ and on 12 December, at the elections, a Federal Assembly must be elected consisting of the Federation Council and the State Duma. We deputies ought to work to ensure that these elections are held without fail so that there is a higher legislative organ in our country. And there is no need now to engage in polemics as to what is right or wrong. We must soberly assess the situation that we now find ourselves in. And if we begin a major debate now and draw the population into it, we will in fact frustrate the elections, will not get a higher legislative organ in our country, and thereby we would worsen the overall situation in our Russia. So we strongly urge you to clearly understand the situation and do everything possible to see that voters invariably come to their electoral centers to vote.

In this way we will create the legislative organ that we need, we will get the two branches of power essential to every society, and we will more or less stabilize the situation in our country. Secondly, we have often talked—sometimes loudly and angrily—about the fact that the soviets that were elected in 1990 no longer satisfy the demands and needs of society today. You and I were elected when our country was the Soviet Union. Then we became the Russian Federative Socialist Republic and then the Russian Federation. We have experienced much in this time and the absolute majority of deputies have been clearly aware for a long time that we cannot remain in office to the end of our term. The situation in society is such that these reelections are unavoidable. The sooner they are held, particularly in the present situation, the better.

In connection with this I am appealing to the deputies to understand what is happening today, to see that elections are essential. It would be very good if a presidential edict would determine a date together with the election of the Federal Assembly. [sentence as heard] It is absolutely unnecessary to postpone it any longer.

Arkhangelsk Oblast To Have Bicameral Parliament

LD2510215993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The word soviet is disappearing from the vocabulary in the capital. It is unlikely to survive in most Russian regions either. Thus, in Arkhangelsk Oblast, as Vladimir Loyter reports, a bicameral parliament is in the offing:

[Loyter] A decision to this effect has been made by Pavel Balakshin, head of the oblast administration. He decreed that the elections to the representative body of authority must be held on 12 December 1993, at the same time as elections to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly in one-mandate constituencies.

The deputies' assembly is to consist of two chambers. The upper chamber will have 27 deputies, one from each territorial unit. The lower chamber will have 11 deputies, elected proportionally to the electorate, one deputy for every 100,000.

Deputies of the lower chamber will work there on a full-time permanent basis. Each chamber is to elect from among its members the chairman of the chamber and the deputy chairman. The chairman of the upper chamber is to work in this post full-time.

Deputies of the two chambers will sit separately or jointly when necessary. Deputies of the lower chamber cannot be in state service or in any other paid employment, apart from being involved in teaching, research, or other creative activities.

According to local legal experts, representative bodies of this kind will be in line with the principles of the federal treaty and Russian Federation legislation. It will approve the budget and monitor the activities of the oblast administration.

Sakha President Nominated for Federal Elections

LD2610112893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Mikhail Nikolayev, president of the Republic of Sakha—Yakutia—was today nominated as a candidate for deputy to the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly. INTERFAX reports that a campaign group has been set up in the republic to gather voters' signatures in support of this decision.

A little earlier, people started gathering signatures in the same district in support of another candidate, IZVESTIYA correspondent Oleg Borodin.

Bryansk Oblast, City, Rayon Soviets Disbanded

PM2510143393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Ivan Pyrkh report under the "Common Sense Prevails" rubric: "Power Assumed"]

[Text] Bryansk— Passions flared up in earnest at the recent session of the Bryansk Oblast Soviet, whose agenda contained effectively just one question—self-dissolution. Although the logic of social development has long brought these organs of "people's power" to their historical conclusion, many of their representatives cannot or will not realize this.

Without delving into history, this can be confirmed by recent examples. This selfsame Bryansk Oblast Soviet, contrary to the overwhelming opinion of the population, opposed the election of B. Yeltsin as Russian president. The majority of the corps of deputies just as fervently opposed the April referendum. At the same time its representatives made considerable efforts to install Communist Yu. Lodkin as head of the oblast adminstration.

The oblast soviet displayed its true nature especially vividly after the president's edict No. 1400 was issued, deeming it as not having force on the oblast's territory. And when the president removed the governor from his post for nonfulfillment of his edict, the oblast soviet, defending its protege, did not agree with this decision.

The critical moment has come in the fate of the oblast soviet. Realizing this, a number of democrat deputies have demanded the dissolution of the representative organ. Nomenklatura deputies are solidly against this, accusing the democrats of all mortal sins. V. Karpov, acting head of the oblast administration, has drawn a line under fruitless discussions. Citing the president's edicts as his support, he has suspended the activity of the oblast soviet, and also the city and rayon soviets. This has been communicated to the population via the mass media.

Daghestan Parliament Debates State System

LD2510155093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadji Shamov]

[Text] Makhachkala October 25 ITAR-TASS—The parliament of the Caucasian republic of Daghestan on Russia's southern European border held an extraordinary session to discuss the political situation in Russia and this republic. The deputies engaged in a heated debate with some arguing in favour of the parliamentary system and others for a presidential republic.

The problem is of particular importance for Daghestan with its specifics. Unlike other republics within the Russian Federation, and particularly unlike territories and regions of Russia, this republic is multinational with each ethnic community cherishing its own customs and traditions. Much of what is acceptable to others is unacceptable here.

For all the differences, the parliament members agreed that the republic needed a strong leadership which would cement its differing ethnic communities. A year ago the people of Daghestan voted in a referendum against the introduction of presidency in the republic. Now it is clear that the representative power must be reformed by all means. The parliament decided to hold another referendum in December 1993 on the popular election of the republic's president.

The session announced that it would be premature to dissolve the parliament of Daghestan, even though it admitted that there were shortfalls in its work. Nonetheless, the parliament announced that it had not compromised itself in the eyes of the people.

As concerns local soviets (councils), most of the deputies said that they had too many members. This is why many local councils will suspend their activities or dissolve themselves in the nearest future. Heads of administration will be appointed and early elections will be called for the representatives bodies of power.

The power structure in the republic will be reformed gradually, beginning with changes in the structure of local governments in November and December. Presidential elections will be held in the first half of 1994, if the people vote in favour of the presidency in the upcoming referendum. Early elections to the parliament and local governments will follow.

The parliament was unanimous in opposing the appointment of a special envoy of the Russian president to the republic of Daghestan to perform supervisory functions.

Chernomyrdin Approves New Coal Subsidies

LD2610112793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1055 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow October 26 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin ordered to earmark 15 billion roubles this year to support the coal industry on the island of Sakhalin in the Far East.

He signed a resolution which envisages 40-billion rouble subsidies to the regional coal industry in 1994. They are to be used for capital investments and the maintenance of social and cultural facilities.

The government also earmarked finances to complete the construction of the Mendeleevo airport on southern Kuriles.

The prime minister urged to solve the issue of compensations for higher prices for electricity consumed by enterprises of the island and its region. Subsidies to state farms and agroindustrial ventures are also envisaged.

Enterprises of the region were freed from import duties on equipment and accessories purchased for new construction and technical reequipment. Export duties for paper, timber, coal, cellulose were cut down by half.

Conversion of Omsk Defense Sector Proceeds Unevenly

PM2510173793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Correspondent Margarita Ziangirova report under "Conversion" rubric: "'Polet': Front view and Profile"]

[Text] The "Polet" aerospace association in Omsk is about to begin flight testing of the first An-74 aircraft. This can certainly be described as a milestone in the life of the local defense industry.

Conversion has subsumed over one-half of all the industrial enterprises in Omsk. Among these enterprises is an outsider in the Siberian military-industrial complex—the "Polet" aerospace association.

The conversion program proposed to the military-industrial complex, including "Polet," has found its interpretation at local and regional level. The fact is that the military-industrial complex in Omsk Oblast has a number of special features. First and foremost, there is a powerful association of machine-building enterprises with a developed complex of research institutes and design bureaus. This is where 78 percent of the principal assets are concentrated, 89 percent of the products are manufactured here, and 185,000 people work here. The drop in defense orders has aggravated the financial position of these enterprises. A year ago orders for special products at defense plants was down by one-half in view of the numerous changes in the production structure of military hardware. The threat of unemployment loomed.

For those carefully following the development of conversion at local level it is no secret that conversion is evidently not taking place at a number of enterprises. There are several reasons. Primarily the lack of a state military doctrine. We still do not know anything about the long-term development of the Army or its intended equipment. Nevertheless, the Omsk regional conversion program envisages taking two-three years to regain the previous level of commodity production.

The 1-billion loan [currency not specified] we were allocated a year ago to create a new civil aircraft has breathed new life into specialists who were on the point of losing faith. The first Omsk aircraft has begun ground tests at the present time. Flight tests are in the pipeline. The second and third aircraft are already being planned. Nor is there any problem with selling the aircraft. Buyers from the North and the Far East are particularly interested in the new airliner. Export versions are also possible. After all, in terms of its modifications—cargo, passenger, or arctic version for polar reconnaissance—the An-74 is unequaled.

Unfortunately, many Omsk enterprises have been deprived of these prospects. Simple reprofiling of defense enterprises that used to make tanks and that now make saucepans cannot resolve the problem of saturation of the Russian consumer market. Nor are the conditions right for grafting the production of items of mass consumption onto defense plants. It is another matter entirely, and one that has been talked about on a number of occasions in Omsk, that conversion should go hand in hand with the manufacture and sale of arms on the external market. An example of this already exists. A T-80u tank which had rolled off the production line in Omsk was among the combat vehicles exhibited at this summer's international exhibition of modern weapons in Abu Dhabi. The Siberian vehicle received an international certificate.

So what next? In the opinion of Vyacheslav Kislitsin, chairman of the Infrastructure Committee under the Omsk Oblast Administration, conversion in Omsk is currently held back by credit practice and the impossibility of reprofiling an extremely complex technological process in such a short time. Plus inflation. Consequently we are faced with potential bankruptcy.

Novgorod TV Company 'Slaviya' Goes on Air

LD2510183893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Video report by correspondent S. Yakovenko, including recorded remarks by V. Smirnov, chairman of the TV and radio company "Slaviya"—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows historical center; building; group of people drinking champagne in a TV studio; TV studio scenes; V. Smirnov, chairman of the TV and Radio Company "Slaviya" being interviewed] [Yakovenko] It seemed unfair to everybody that the great city of Novgorod, father of Russian towns, and also a center of modern electronics did not have a professional TV company. Well, today the ranks of Russian journalists have a new recruit. As from 25 October the Novgorod State TV and Radio Company Slaviya begins regular broadcasts.

[Smirnov] The studio is equipped with TV technology that is relatively modern. For the time being, we will broadcast according to a temporary schedule. When the final touches are completed, we will be able to produce professional television.

International Affairs

U.S. Secretary of State Christopher Meets With Leaders

Plyushch Comments on Meeting

LD2510230693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 25 October

[Vitaliy Naumenko report on comments and news conference by Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch with unidentified reporters before and after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Kiev on 25 October]

[Text] This morning's meeting between Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher lasted almost an hour and a half. As you know, only a minimum number of media representatives are admitted to events at this level. I also hope that there is no need to explain why the agenda is so strict—many confidential issues need to be addressed. Still, the legislative speaker found some time to say something before the meeting. Whatever can be said and whatever ideas are proposed, he said, America is America and one should make friends with it. I am not supporting, the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman noted, the idea of a superpower. However, I see a strong America as the country that can exert influence—and it does so—to maintain peace and stability in Europe. This influence might become more efficient if all countries recognize American strength. Then followed the talks behind closed doors.

After the meeting, Ivan Plyushch commented on the results of his meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Most of the interview was devoted to Ukraine's nonnuclear status. This topic was energetically discussed by our colleagues from the [Russian] Mayak station this morning. They emphasized in many ways that no one but Russia should become legal successor to the nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of the former Soviet Union, and that the United States supposedly welcomes and agrees with this position. The Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman will help us learn whether or not this is correct.

[Begin recording] [Plyushch] You saw that our meeting with Mr. Christopher was long and protracted. I would even venture to say that it was also substantial. Two thirds of our conversation was devoted to a new approach and giving qualitatively new meaning to U.S.-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-U.S. relations. Our delegation gathered enough courage to openly say that these relations are currently being built on a qualitatively new basis, because for too long the perception of the CIS as some kind of state considerably damaged state relations between our countries. We are glad that the U.S. secretary of state and U.S. ambassador to Ukraine seem to understand this fact. As for the nuclear issue, U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher said that Ukraine would be safer if it gave up its nuclear weapons. I told him that no one has to convince us of this because when adopting our declaration on state sovereignty, we almost unanimously incorporated into it a provision that Ukraine should become a nonnuclear, non-bloc, and neutral state in the future. However, after Ukraine chose the status of an independent state and became independent we see how further events were developing. Having become a state, Ukraine must think about the protection of this state. The arrangement of political forces in nearby countries, as well as reaction from far abroad, to some degree determine our actions, approaches, and convictions. This is why we explained our position to Warren Christopher first of all on this issue—we firmly hold to this principle that is written in our declaration, and will continue to implement it. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk had, I would say, an enthusiastic attitude toward fulfilling those obligations. Ukraine removed all of its tactical nuclear weapons from its territory ahead of schedule. It put forth no additional economic or security conditions then. You know, however, that Ukraine buys most of its energy sources, including fuel for our nuclear reactors. And having withdrawn some portion of this fuel together with tactical nuclear weapons, Ukraine gathers courage and reminds that we withrew the fuel and perhaps there should be some kind of compensation, because we buy from you the fuel for our nuclear reactors. We have reached some agreement on the interstate level—Prime Minister Chernomyrdin even accepted the idea that one should find a compromise on fuel payments. However, during the last meeting, Boris Yeltsin forgot about this, and this issue reappeared again, and was sent back to the stage of the protocol of intentions. And now, they urge us to bring out 137 warheads, which contain much more fuel.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Plyushch] Well, 176 warheads is another stage. No one said there then that we were supposed to remove them and on what conditions. We are talking here about START I.

I will repeat it again, that I told the secretary of state that we need more than 30 percent of our energy to be produced by nuclear power plants. So just in order for us to buy fuel for these nuclear reactors we need enormous funds for the next few years, and we need to buy it because we do not enrich or manufacture it ourselves. These funds amount to several billion dollars—not karbovantsi but dollars. According to an assessment carried out by CIS and other foreign countries, the conversion of nuclear warheads should yield $5 billion. Ukraine needs exactly $1 billion every year to provide its nuclear power plants with fuel. This is the first question. The second question is collective security. After we had adopted the declaration, we signed an agreement with Russia, understanding that we should live peacefully with it and believing that it was the best guarantee for our security, since we would have friendly and peaceful relations with the closest powerful country. This is what we considered and this was how we approached it. We signed documents and held negotiations. However, the Russian

legislative bodies adopted a resolution that was seen around the world as territorial claims against Ukraine and interfering with its internal affairs, and now we cannot deal with this issue on such grounds. Those grounds have changed completely, and now Ukraine should develop some other form of security agreement with Russia and other countries. I believe that when a country taking part in such a security agreement comes forward with territorial claims against another participating country, then this is interpreted as a claim against me and behaves accordingly. This is why we proposed that, if earlier it could have been resolved in a somewhat different manner, then today it requires the initiating and holding of interstate negotiations among Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. We should agree on how to conduct this process. I told the secretary of state that I we will be able to convince the majority of Supreme Council deputies only after we receive an answer on how this conversion will be carried out and what will be the mechanism of collective security. We would not be so concerned about this if we did not see what is happening in Russia, where the electoral battle has begun. They have formed a new party, a qualitatively new party, which Sergey Shakhray, Stankevich, the presidential adviser, and other well-known political lea ers and new political leaders have joined, and who, we considered, had reconciled themselves with what was happening as a result of these processes. However, look at what their platform is based on. It seems that. It seems that the Russian federal system is needed merely for establishing the foundations of a new confederation. We can become its victim. We are afraid that the events in Yaroslavl were orchestrated. Moreover, Yaroslav the Wise [one of the Kiev Rus princes] was one of those princes that would collect territories. So, how should we understand this? The electoral campaign is going on in Russia, and they probably want to elect such a president, such political forces that will claim tomorrow that it is time to collect territories. At the same time, we see that Russia is asking the United Nations for peacekeeper status. We could observe its peacekeeping operations in Moldova, Georgia, Abkhazia, and other countries. I will frankly say that it was a correct step when we so decisively announced the forming of our own Armed Forces and openly admitted that we were a country that was forming an Army to defend ourselves. If there was a Russian military contingent on our territory today, I cannot say that it would be an exception. We can see such a situation with the Black Sea Fleet today. Do you think Kruhlov [head of the pro-Russian National Salvation Front] could, with his little group of adherents—how many of them there are, 27 or 70, I do not know what the figures are—do you think they would have such courage unless they could see the Black Sea Fleet command behind their backs? As soon as the events in Moscow unfolded, who did Kruhlov run to? To Baltin. The good thing is that Baltin is a very wise man and he told Kruhlov that there was nothing to talk about. What if the man had the same beliefs as the putschists?

So, if we are to regard the nonproliferation and destruction of nuclear weapons as the most important political issue on the eve of 21st century, we should consider how we envision the mechanism of collective security. Today, NATO is repeatedly mentioned in connection with this. However, nobody can predict what will be the future mechanism of existence in NATO. If both Russia and Ukraine join NATO, we will not need a collective security system.

The talks were earnest, and I believe that the Clinton administration, represented by Secretary Christopher, understands our position, and further talks with Leonid Kravchuk will be positive. [end recording]

Further on Plyushch Remarks

LD2510142793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya for TASS]

[Text] Kiev October 25 TASS—Ukrainian parliament speaker Ivan Plyushch said his country may ratify the START-1 treaty only in case Ukraine receives security guarantees and compensations for the nuclear fuel in eliminated missiles and added that the security problem can be decided at trilateral Ukrainian-Russian-American negotiations.

"I believe we shall succeed in convincing lawmakers to ratify the START-1 treaty and join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty only upon the conditions that a mechanism of collective security is created and a mechanism of eliminating nuclear weapons is worked out and in case of a compensation for the (nuclear) fuel (in warheads)", Plyushch told reporters on Monday after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

He quoted Christopher as saying that "the position of Ukraine will become more secure if it gets rid of nuclear weapons" and said that "it is not necessary to convince us in that".

"We have proclaimed the ukrainian course towards a nuclear-free status and are strictly abiding by it. However, after Ukraine became an independent state and in connection with developments at our neighbours we have to seriously think about the security of our state", Plyushch said.

He recalled that Ukraine had got rid of its tactical nuclear weapons, but did not receive any compensation for that. "At the same time we are buying fuel for our nuclear power plants in Russia", he said.

According to Plyushch, Ukrainian-American relations were impeded by the U.S. position which preferred to deal with the whole of the Commonwealth of Independent States rather than with its separate members. "Our delegation put it bluntly that the position of the U.S. Administration treating the CIS as a state greatly impeded the relations. It is necessary to develop contacts with each of the independent states which emerged on

the territory of the former Soviet Union, with Ukraine in particular. We are glad that the secretary of state realises it well", Plyushch said.

Kravchuk Meets With Christopher

LD2510165593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1508 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 25 Oct (TASS)—President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine today received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is paying an official visit to Kiev. The secretary of state passed on greetings and best wishes from U.S. President Bill Clinton. The president of the Ukraine, in his turn, asked for his best wishes to be conveyed to the U.S. President.

A range of questions connected with the development of Ukrainian-U.S. relations in all spheres of socioeconomic life and their transition to a qualitatively new stage were discussed during the talks, which were held behind closed doors. Matters connected with the achievement of non-nuclear status by the Ukraine and the possibility of U.S. assistance in this area were also expected to be discussed during the talks.

Further on Kravchuk Meeting

LD2510222493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 25 October, who had arrived in Kiev during the course of a tour of East European countries and the CIS. During their conversation, Kravchuk emphasized that relations with the United States of America were a priority for Ukrainian foreign policy. He, in particular, pointed out that the security of states in the world nowadays depended on the scope of mutually beneficial cooperation rather than the size of nuclear arsenals.

The Ukrainian president emphasized that our state's course toward achieving non-nuclear status in the future, which was declared by the Ukrainian parliament, was unchanged. The main thing now is to define and to find specific ways and mechanisms to achieve this aim.

The Ukrainian president added that the destruction of nuclear weapons was a complex matter requiring considerable effort and funds. At present, Ukraine—both from an economic and technological viewpoint—is incapable of performing tremendous work to eliminate its nuclear arsenal on its own without financial support from the international community, including the United States of America. Kravchuk added that, under conditions when certain states are officially making territorial claims against Ukraine at the parliamentary level, Ukraine needs the nuclear states to provide us with reliable security guarantees in the form of a legally binding document.

The success of the elimination of nuclear weapons in Ukraine also depends on the settlement of the issue of acceptable compensation for the nuclear material of the warheads, which will be dismantled.

The U.S. secretary of state expressed understanding of Ukraine's position, in particular, on the issue of guaranteeing its security, financial aid, and development of the process of negotiations in the future. Christopher said that the United States was ready to extend relations with Ukraine beyond the nuclear boundary and to focus the attention of bilateral relations on economic and other issues, since this was the very approach that was the most reliable guarantee of peace all over the world.

During the course of the conversation, subjects such as the progress of the work of the Ukrainian parliament on ratifying the START I Treaty, the utilization of aid allocated by the United States of America to Ukraine, and Ukraine's guarantees within the framework of European security systems were also raised.

Zlenko Meets With Christopher

LD2510182393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] In Kiev today, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher discussed the present state and the prospects for the development of Ukrainian- U.S. relations. At the U.S. visitor's initiative, the attention at their meeting was mainly focused on problems connected with the elimination of nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory. [passage omitted]

Christopher Meets With Reporters

LD2510213093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State (?Warren Christopher) [words indistinct] journalists [words indistinct] have raised the level of aid to Ukraine to $330 million. It is intended for the development of a sector of the economy and disarmament. Warren Christopher pointed out that this is the minimum commitment. The United States will grant greater aid once Ukraine has begun taking major steps in the direction of reforms.

The secretary of state pointed out that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and the leadership of the Supreme Council today confirmed that they aspire to make Ukraine a non-nuclear state. Senior parliamentarians stated, in Christopher's words, that in November they are to discuss the ratification of the START I Treaty and accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Offers $175 Million To Scrap Nuclear Arms

LD2510225293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2124 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Aleksey Petrunya and Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev October 25 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the United States is ready to

grant Ukraine 175 million dollars in aid to scrap nuclear weapons after he had received assurances from the Ukrainian leaders about their determination to build a nuclear-free state.

Speaking at a news conference in Kiev on Monday, Christopher, who is here on a tour of CIS countries, said that the U.S. would pay special attention to economic cooperation with Ukraine. He singled out three directions of developing bilateral ties.

First of all, he stressed, the U.S. should bring the volume of its assistance to Ukraine to 330 million in 1994. He added this sum would grow as soon as Ukraine begins real reform. Additionally, the U.S. would also grant Ukraine lower export tariffs and help it join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Lastly, the U.S. would help attract international financial organisations to launch business in Ukraine. This should bring Ukraine additional several billion dollars, Christopher said.

Speaking about the elimination of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, the U.S. secretary of State said he had received assurances from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and parliament leaders that the ratification of the START-1 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty would be considered by the Ukrainian parliament in November.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, who also attended the press conference, said that this is his fourth meeting with Christopher. During their previous meeting in New York "we agreed that it is necessary to speed up the search for a new impulse in our relations. This was confirmed today. We pointed out to the need to expand relations in the economic, scientific and technological spheres and transfer to partnership relations."

Zlenko expressed the hope that the START-1 Treaty would be ratified by the parliament. However, if Western countries do not provide financial and technical assistance, problems are likely to emerge, he warned. He stressed that Ukraine would need 2.8 billion dollars to eliminate its nuclear arsenals.

Plyushch on Concluding Security Accord With Russia, U.S.

LD2510170193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Ivan Plyusch stated that Ukraine, Russia and the U.S. should conclude a collective security agreement. Following his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he told journalists that "if such an agreement is signed, the deputies might be persuaded to ratify the START-1 Treaty."

"Christopher was trying to convince us that the nuclear-free status would make Ukraine more secure," said Ivan Plyusch. He also pointed out that the Ukrainian Declaration of Independence said that Ukraine would work for attaining a nuclear-free status.

He noted, however, that Ukrainian-Russian relations, particularly the Russian parliament's resolution on the status of Sevastopol, had had an affect on the Ukrainian leaders' strategy. He also said that during the election campaign in Russia, the influential block, led by Shakhrai and Stankevich, had proposed the idea of making Russia the center of a new confederation. This, he said, may also influence Ukraine's position on its nuclear-free status.

Ivan Plyusch stated that supplies of fuel for the nuclear power plants was one of the terms for the removal of the nuclear strategic warheads from Ukraine to Russia. The withdrawal of the nuclear warheads from the 130 strategic nuclear missiles could might help Ukraine obtain nuclear fuel worth a total of about $3.5 Mn. He said that the nuclear power-plants accounted for 30

of the entire electric energy generated in Ukraine. The problem of nuclear fuel is particularly acute today, he added.

He stated that although an agreement had been reached with Russia on the supplying of nuclear fuel in exchange for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukraine, it looked like Boris Yeltsin had forgotten about this, and this question had been reduced to the category of protocols of intent.

Kravchuk Message to Congress of Ukrainians of Russia

LD2310103793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] On 23-24 October, a Congress of Ukrainians of Russia is being held in Moscow. Its objective is to unite the Ukrainians who live on Russia's territory. On this occasion Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk addressed a message to the delegates.

Esteemed friends, dear brothers and sisters: For the first time in many years the Ukrainians of the Russian Federation have gathered in Moscow to hold their Congress. For various reasons, in the distant and recent past, millions of Ukrainians have found themselves on the broad expanses of Russia. Your congress is a sincere council of the envoys of the Ukrainian communities which live and work in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Kuban and Tyumen, the Volga region and Siberia, the Urals and Primorye region, and in many other cities and regions of the Russian state. For centuries, many generations of Ukrainians have been worthily contributing to its development, to multiplying its wealth, and to consolidating its cultural and economic potential. The names Feofan Prokopovych [philosopher, 1681-1736], Mykola Hohol [Nikolay Gogol, writer, 1809-1852], Serhiy Korolyov [spacecraft designer], Ivan Kozlovskyy [singer], and other prominent scientists, men of arts, and political figures, Ukrainians by descent, have been inscribed in Russian culture in golden letters. The formation of Russia and Ukraine as independent democratic states creates favorable conditions for the processes of reviving the Ukrainian national minority on the territory of Russia. Ukraine will take motherly care of the fate of its sons and daughters, who are citizens of

Russia, strictly abiding by the norms of international law, creating necessary contractual and legal principles in relations with the Russian Federation.

I cordially greet the delegates with the beginning of the congress' work. I sincerely wish you success in your large-scale and beneficial activity. I believe that the first congress will fittingly serve the cause of consolidating the Ukrainians in the Russian Federation. It will help open new horizons of spiritual unity, upgrade, consolidate, and inspire Ukrainians all over the world in their best hopes, aspirations, and expectations.

[Signed] Leonid Kravchuk

Party Leader Urges Retaining Part of Nuclear Potential

LD2510181693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's position is known: It is to seek the quickest possible surrender of nuclear weapons by Ukraine. This was stated in an interview by Mykhaylo Horyn, chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP], who commented on the high-ranking American guest's visit to Ukraine.

Mykhaylo Horyn emphasized that U.S. pressure has recently eased on this issue of principle. The URP is of the opinion, Mylhaylo Horyn stated, that Ukraine ought to keep part of its nuclear potential as a guarantee of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. He pointed out that Ukraine could dismantle the liquid-fuel missiles while keeping the 46 solid-fuel missiles until all the countries begin to disarm simultaneously and all together.

National Affairs

Kravchuk's Comments on Internal Threat Viewed

PM2510122993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Polyakov: "Threat to Ukraine's Security Comes Not From Outside but Is Maturing Within the State. Ukrainian President and Parliamentarians Believe"]

[Text] Kiev—The discussion of various aspects of national security at the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session has shed considerable light on the position of the president and parliamentarians on the most important avenues of Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy. And perhaps one of its main results was the defeat of the Rukh-oriented deputies. It was they who insisted on discussing national security problems and fueled passions around the mythical threat to Ukraine, unambiguously indicating Russia in this connection. It was they who demanded the closure of the "transparent" borders with the "Northern neighbor," the cancelling of the Black Sea Fleet agreement, and the withdrawal of the "foreign ships." And they hoped that the discussion of this question in parliament would help once more to brand "imperial Russia" and increase their prestige before the approaching elections.

President Leonid Kravchuk set forth the concept of national security. To all appearances he utterly unexpectedly poured cold water on the Rukh supporters whose populist slogans he had until recently supported. The threat to security, he stated, comes not from outside but is maturing within the republic. The plants at a standstill, hyperinflation, the people's impoverishment, the stratification of society—here is what is most terrible today to Ukraine's stability and independence. One kilogram of meat at the market costs about 80,000 coupons while the wages of workers and employees fluctuate from 100,000 coupons to 300,000 in rare cases. At the same time in commercial structures they receive up to 1.5 million a month. That is not surprising. State money totalling 27 trillion has settled with the "commercial dealers" yet the state cannot find the money to buy the rural workers' output.

Russia for us is not simply a source of energy carriers, not only a neighbor and great power, it is a source of peace and stability in an enormous region and throughout the world, President Kravchuk stressed. His speech was accompanied by approbatory cries and the president was seen off with applause. Which, for present times, is extremely rare.

Realism and common sense, as we can see, are gaining the upper hand. Nonetheless a certain disharmony is introduced by Ukraine's intention to remain a nuclear power for some indefinite period and to retain 46 strategic missiles on its territory.

Transcarpathian Leadership Waives Debate on Autonomy

LD2510182993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The issue of declaring Transcarpathia a special self-governing administrative territory, as a legal entity within the independent Ukraine, has been taken off the agenda of a regular session of the Regional Council, which is to take place on 29 October. This has been done at the request of the Ukrainian Supreme Council standing commissions, in view of the fact that the Ukrainian Supreme Council, in the very near future, is planning to consider a draft law on a Europe Center [name as received] special free economic zone in Transcarpathian Oblast. Relinquishing the debate on this issue will no doubt contribute to the situation in the region, that has been under threat, remaining stable.

The regional deputies' intention to jump ahead of the Ukrainian Supreme Council in determining Transcarpathia's status had a varying reception in the region. Supporters of autonomy, who regard the notion of self-government as synonymous, all but applauded in expectation of power and leadership seats changing hands.

Their opponents accused the Regional Council of separatism and infringement upon the territorial integrity of the state.

The Civic Committee for Fighting Separatism, formed recently, has staged a number of rallies, gatherings and other actions against the Regional Council's intention to reconsider Transcarpathia's status. In its address to the Supreme Council, the Ukrainian Transcarpathian People's Council, with a membership of around 20 public and political associations of Ukrainian orientation, pointed out that the style of separatists' work was methodically and consistently anti-Ukrainian.

In a nutshell, the issue of self-government might have become a dangerous apple of contention in the multinational region. It is good to know that common sense prevailed and deputies decided that the developments should not be forced.

Belarus

Defense Minister Begins Official Visit to Washington

LD2610093193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Mzareulov]

[Text] Washington October 26 TASS—Belarusian Defence Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy arrived in the United States on Monday for an official visit at the invitation of U.S. Secretary of Defence Les Aspin. He is to meet with U.S. administration officials and top brass and tour a number of military bases and educational establishments.

Kozlovskiy's talks in the U.S. capital will focus on matters aimed at shaping "unprecedented cooperation between the military of Belarus and the U.S. in various fields", according to a press release by the Belarusian Embassy in Washington.

The two defence ministers are expected to sign a memorandum defining areas and forms of such cooperation.

Opposition Conference Proposes Coalition Government

WS2610100793 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 19 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Opposition Wants To Form Coalition Government"]

[Text] On Saturday 16 October, a conference of Belarusian noncommunist and anti-imperial forces was held in the Writers' House in Minsk. The conference showed that the primary strategic goal of the opposition over the next few months is to form a transitional coalition government as a guarantor of free, democratic elections.

Approximately 30 social and political organizations participated in the conference. In fact, every Belarusian political organization of some significance has made a choice between this conference and the People's Movement of Belarus. In this way, it was confirmed once more that political forces in the country are distinctly divided between two strong, opposing blocks. Of course, there are serious ideological differences within these blocks, but members of both camps agree on one thing, namely, that they can see their main opponents very clearly.

Let us return to the conference. Belarusian Popular Front [BNF] Chairman Zianon Pazniak delivered the main report "on the political situation in the country," in which he justified his view of the need for the present government to resign. "The fact that the liquidation of the state is carried out by the government itself appears as a queer absurdity," stated Pazniak, bearing in mind, first of all, the creation of economic union, the joining of the ruble zone, and the agreement on collective security. The BNF leader also made jokes at the expense of top Belarusian officials.

However, it must be noted that the majority of reports and supplementary reports delivered at the conference were devoted to economics, which reflects the opposition's desire to refute the widespread opinion that it is weak in this area. Supplementary reports on "the crisis in the Belarusian economy and ways to overcome it" were delivered by People's Deputy Viktar Alampiyev; Stanislaw Husak, deputy chairman of the United Democratic Party of Belarus; and Ivan Nikitchanka, deputy chairman of the Belarusian Peasant Party. People's Deputy Uladzimir Zablocki, who is being called "the shadow cabinet's prime minister" by many, discussed the structure and tasks of the proposed transitional coalition government.

However, for the time being, no one seems willing to put power in the hands of the opposition. During a news conference, when answering a question about the possibility of the current government resigning, Pazniak stated that the proper social activity and common sense of deputies, coupled with the initiatives of democratic organization, may play a key role in that.

Naturally, journalists raised the question of why democratic forces curbed their efforts to dismiss the government rather than organize early elections for the spring of 1994. Pazniak termed this statement as "deeply mistaken." "It is the government that keeps this Supreme Soviet alive, not the other way around... At the moment, the deputies' circles are revaluating the government... As soon as the government resigns, real political reform in the Supreme Soviet can begin, which will bring the elections nearer... Deputies will not reconstruct themselves of their own free will," stated Pazniak. At the news conference, it was also stated that the parliamentary opposition would support Shushkevich if the question of his dismissal was raised during the session, but, in spite of this, "Shushkevich showed complete incomprehension of the situation and a lack of will to do anything about it."

Thus, there are two concepts for reforming the political order proposed to Belarusian society. The first, the opposition's, involves the government's dismissal, which should in turn guarantee the holding of new elections. The second, Shushkevich's, involves the adoption of a new constitution and the holding of democratic elections on its basis. At the same time, on the government's part, we can see their desire to maintain the "status quo." In my opinion, given normal developments, both Shushkevich's and BNF's concept have little chance of turning this into fact.

Moldova

Gen Lebed To Discuss Dniester Situation in Moscow

AU2510145093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 23/10/1993—General Lebed was called by the leadership of the Armed Forces

to Moscow to discuss the situation in the Dniester region after the failure of the Moscow rebellion and the role of the Army in these conditions, states the weekly RESPUBLIKA (The Republic). Despite the fact that the Tiraspol Supreme Soviet rejected his declaration on abandoning deputy activity, Lebed gave—through his representative—his stark and deputy certificate to Grigore Maracuta. The weekly says that a reason for Lebed's departure to Moscow was the speech of former Minister of Foreign Affairs Nicolae Tau (now Moldovan Ambassador in U.S.A) in Washington. Before leaving to Moscow Lebed said "the 14th Army will stay in the region as long as needed", states the weekly.

Women's Group Calls General Lebed 'Traitor'

AU2310155093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1929 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS 21/10/1993—The Transdniester radio broadcasted today an interview with Galina Andreeva, leader of the Strike Committee of Transdniestrian Women. She said that the position of General Lebed is destructive for Transdniester. Andreeva stated: "I thought Lebed is a real man of state, but he turned out to be just a kid." She added that "Lebed feels guilty because Rutskoy proposed him the post of minister of defence, now he tries to justify himself in front of Russian authorities." Andreeva made clear that she had some compromising documents about several officers, including General Lebed. Some of these documents were given to Russian investigation bodies. Andreeva blames Lebed for the disappearance of the Transdniestrian battalion commander Kostenko. Previously, the Strike Committee of Transdniestrian Women published an open letter pronouncing against the actions of General Lebed. They sent a similar letter to Russian Minister of Defence Pavel Grachev. Such inscriptions as "Lebed is a traitor," "Lebed is an informer" are also included in the campaign for discrediting General Lebed.

Luchinsky: Dniester Separatists Will Not Compromise

LD2210210693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] All Chisinau's initiatives for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Transdniester are being confronted by the unwillingness by separatist leaders to agree to reasonable compromises. They insist on the republic's federalization, which is unacceptable for the Moldovan population, speaker of the Moldovan Parliament Petr Luchinsky said Friday morning meeting Oliver Spenser, Chief of the Secretariat of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Despite the situation, said Luchinsky, the republic's leadership is working out projects for settling the conflict in Transdniester. The documents, for example, provide for special legal status for the region with account of ethnic, economic and other peculiarities. Luchinsky said that mediators are needed to settle the conflict in Transdniester and added that the CSCE provides efficient help and given his help Moldova can expect shortly the complete settlement of the conflict.

Sangeli: Parliament Fails To Back Chisinau Peace Moves

LD2310124293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] By calling a halt to a fratricidal war in Moldova, the republic's present government of national accord has fulfilled its minimum objective, Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli has told the KISHINEVSKIYE NOVOSTI newspaper. The head of the Moldovan Government thinks Moldova was one step away from a national catastrophe. But he noted, the first step made by the government was not followed by the second on the part of parliament. The parliamentarians failed to legally adopt a document on the status of the Left Bank rayons and populated areas where the Gagauz population is concentrated.

Dniester Organizations Favor Confederation

AU2510144193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS 23/10/1993—The Union of Social Organizations, parties and movements, the Presidium of the Women's Union and the Union of Moldovans from the Dniester region published their telegrams to Boris Yeltsin. They demand his aid for "the young republic in its wish to keep the territorial integrity of Moldova as a confederation." The telegrams say that the 14th Army is a guarantee of peace in the region, as "its withdrawal would start a new aggression." The Union of Moldovans from the Dniester region demands Russian authorities to defend during Chisinau talks the "rights of Moldovan from Dniester for national name, national language and national statality." According to leaders of the union, after the "Romanization" process, "Moldova" was only left in the name of the state.

Gagauz Region To Hold Elections 27 February

AU2510144993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 23/10/1993—The Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic will revise its decision on elections in local administrative bodies, states the weekly RESPUBLIKA (The Republic). Comrat authorities have set the date of elections in local administrative bodies for 27 February before the Moldovan Parliament's decision on early elections on the same date. According to the weekly, a representative of Comrat officials stated that persons who would take part in the elections in the new Moldovan Parliament would not be threatened, but "to avoid confusion it was decided that the elections in Gagauz administrative bodies would be held before those in Moldovan ones."

Maracuta Excludes Dniester Participation in Elections

AU2610085193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 23/10/1993—Nicolae Andronic, head of the Parliamentary Commission for Problems of Eastern Moldova, and Grigore Maracuta, speaker of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic, gave interviews to the newspaper "KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI" (NEWS OF CHISINAU) about the possibility for participation of Dniester in parliamentary elections. Andronic states that deputies from Dniester will certainly be in the new parliamentary elections. Andronic states that deputies from Dniester will certainly be in the new parliament as several parties: In particular, the Agrarians, Social Democrats and the Christian Democratic Popular Front have on their lists representatives from Eastern Moldova. "Those from the left bank of River Dniester are tempted to accept the proposal of social democrats to convoke a constituent assembly that would elaborate the project of the new Constitution. The proposal does not exclude the federal orgnization of Moldova. In this case a referendum should be held. Now we ask those from Dniester: Is there any guarantee that this proposal will be supported by the population? If it is not accepted, the Tiraspol leaders will be isolated again, and we shall fail politically" states Andronic. Maracuta states that in general he does not exclude the participation in elections in Moldovan Parliament, but not in this one. "As long as it is written in the Constitution that this is a unitary, multinational state, as long as the parliament has one chamber, we do not see any possibility to take part in elections," states the Dniester speaker. "We can take part only in the elections in a federal parliament."

Party Leader Favors Dniester 'Self-Administration'

AU2610085293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

(Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 23/10/1993—Tudor Olaru, vice chairman of the Moldovan Democratic Agrarian Party [PDAM], states in an interview for the newspaper "KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI" (NEWS OF CHISINAU) that the participants in the elections will try, in his opinion, not to win but to test the popularity degrees of the parties. Therefore it is possible that coalitions will not be created. According to him, only after elections if a particular party does not accumulate the necessary votes, the most incredible coalitions will be possible. "The PDAM will not seek the support of forces that pronounce against Moldova's independence or are ready to split it," states Olaru. He spoke about the possible premier if PDAM wins in elections. Olaru said that the party does not have a common point of view on this matter: Some think Andrei Sangheli is the right person, but with the condition that he will team up with his comrades who have the same opinions. Others consider that the premier could be a leader of a district executive, for example Valeriu Bulgar from Briceni or Vasile Vartic from Stefan-Voda. The vice chairman of PDAM says that Dniester will be proposed the economic independence or local self-administration, adding that this can be called anyhow, even federation. We should not be afraid of words. Their sense is much more important.

Sangheli: Foreign Debt Stands at $500 Million

AU2610085593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 23/10/1993—Andrei Sangheli, Moldovan premier, states in an interview for the newspaper "KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI" that Moldova's external debt amounts $500 million. He says that this debt should not frighten the people; according to the international standards, this is only 20-25 percent of the allowed external debt. Sangheli states that the injections of currency resources in Moldovan economy will be started in 1994. "The credits granted by international and in most cases looked like sole assistance," states the premier. "I am sure we have to receive much larger credits. We do understand that we shall not be strongly supported by the West as long as it is not clear who we are and where we are heading." Sangheli says that it would be perfect if the national currency is introduced soon after the economic stablilization, but in the conditions when Russia, Ukraine and Belarus practically introduced their own currencies there is no sense to use the coupon. Until new year the new currency will be introduced, states the premier.

President Introduces 'Harsh' Power-Saving Measures

PM2510155393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[POSTFACTUM report: "Harsh Power-Saving Measures in Moldova"]

[Text] According to an edict published by the president of Moldova in connection with the acute shortage of power station fuel, especially coal and fuel oil, the supply of electricity for advertising purposes, the illumination of store windows, and the illumination of dacha and garage cooperatives is being suspended until 1 April 1994. The use of electricity for the heating of various enterprises and institutions is being banned. The electricity quota for industrial needs is being reduced by 25 percent, while the quota for street lighting is being reduced by 30 percent. Enterprises involved in the provision of services to the population, in particular consumer services and trade, have been instructed to switch to daytime working so as to save electricity.

Russia Sends Only 27 Percent of Contracted Gasoline

AU2310161493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1929 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/10/1993—In nine months of 1993, Russia delivered Moldova only 27.2

percent of the gasoline provided by the interstate contract, stated sources from the State Association for Fuel. Eastern fuel suppliers fulfilled the contracts only by 44.2 percent. The shipped fuel oil is only 27 percent of that provided in contract. Diesel oils—62.5 percent, coal—49.4 percent and liquid gases—49 percent. Over 23,300 tons of gasoline, 51,000 tonnes of diesel oil and 233,300 tonnes of fuel oil were brought to Moldova by economic agents or mediating companies. These amounts exceeded those of energy resources imported by interstate contracts. According to the contracts, Moldova delivered over 21,000 tonnes of meat or 91 percent of the provided quantity, dairy products—25,600 tonnes (37 percent) and fruit 36,500 tonnes (13 percent).

Weekly Claims Defense Officials of Selling Arms

AU2410203093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1905 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 22/10/1993—The conditions of maintaining military equipment and weapons of National Army units are of such kind that they favour the cases of their stealing, states the weekly GLASUL NATIUNII (VOICE OF THE NATION). Although there is no law in Moldova on sale, purchase or keeping of guns, the Ministry of Defence sold about 50 SKS [expansion unknown] rifles at a price of 1,180 rubles each; their real price was about $200 each. This affair was authorized by the Ministry of Interior, Minister of Defence Division General Pavel Creanga and Colonel Nani head of the Centre of Preparation of Specialists from Rezina. Ignoring the presidential decree which forbids to sell any technic [as received], have sold two cars for 10,736 rubles and 12,525 rubles. "While the Ministry of Defence cares about problems far from the defence of the republic, Moldovan soldiers shoot six bullets a month, pilots have one flight per week, and other militaries, carrying out the orders, milk cows, breed hogs, paint fences and sweep yards," states GLASUL NATIUNII.

National Currency To Be Introduced in Nov

AU2610085093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1630 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 23/10/1993—The Moldovan premier Andrei Sangheli stated before his visit to France, Belgium, and Germany that the introduction of the national currency is no longer a secret: It will happen in November, states the weekly "RESPUBLIKA" (THE REPUBLIC). Sangheli said that this decision was coordinated with IMF and the Council of Europe which would grant Moldova the necessary assistance for the introduction of national currency, states the weekly.

New Communist Party Holds Founding Congress in Chisinau

LD2510191193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1655 GMT 24 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau October 25 TASS—A new Moldovan Communist Party held its founding conference on Monday in Chisinau. The conference elected its ruling bodies, and adopted a charter and a platform.

The platform indicates that the Party of Communists of Moldova (that is the official name) will reflect the interests of the working people, strive to achieve social justice and civil agreement in society, as well as restore peace and the territorial integrity of Moldova.

The new Communist Party which says it is the inheritor to the Communist Party of Moldova, a branch of the former Soviet Communist Party, intends to take part in Moldova's parliamentary elections, which are scheduled for February 27. To do so it must be appropriately registered by the Ministry of Justice.

The Communist Party of Moldova was banned by the Presidium of the republic's parliament after the abortive 1991 August putsch in Moscow for an alleged support of the coup. However, an investigation undertaken by Moldova's procurator found no proofs of that. Two years later the parliament repealed the ban on the Communist Party in Moldova.

Kazakhstan

Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani Continues Visit to Almaty

Meets With Nazarbayev

LD2510123893 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Today President of Kazakhstan Nazarbayev had a tete-a-tete conversation with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who arrived in Almaty yesterday. An accord has been reached to sign a number of documents. After the meeting, a news conference was held. A fragment from Nazarbayev's speech is offered to your attention.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording, in Russian] Ladies and gentlemen. We welcome for the first time in the history of our independent state the visit of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran who arrived here at my invitation. Yesterday and today we started talks which will be continued further. We exchanged our opinions on the issues connected with Kazakh-Iranian relations as well as urgent regional and international problems of mutual interest to our countries. Last year I paid an official visit to Iran. [passage omitted] This year became the year of active political and economic contacts between the two countries. Practical implementation of our agreements began, especially in the sphere of economy, transport, communications, industry and agriculture. The turnover of goods is growing in all aspects of economic relations. [passage omitted]

We must do our best to use the Caspian Sea for transport. Today our relevant ministries will sign agreements on large-scale goods exchange. This was the main issue under examination—I mean the use of the Caspian Sea. The Iranian side will immediately start expanding terminals for receiving our oil, grain, coal, and other goods necessary for the Islamic Republic of Iran. I want to express my special gratitude to President Rafsanjani for his personal involvement and support in the matter of deporting ethnic Kazakhs who had expressed their wish to return to their historical motherland. I hope for further cooperation in this matter. I am grateful to the Iranian side for their support of the initiative of Kazakhstan to convene a conference on confidence building measures on the Asian continent. Iran is an economically powerful, politically respectable [solidniy] large country in the center of Asia that influences policy not only in Asia but also in the world. Iran participates as a peacemaker in conflicts that take place in some of the CIS states. For this reason we discussed the problem of Tajikistan, Nagorno-Karabakh, and our stance is identical in the sense that it beneficial for us all to establish peace and calmness in these countries by peaceful political means. We also spoke for the immediate discontinuation of bloodshed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are against all forms of violence: ethnic, religious, [words indistinct]. All talks were held in accordance with the basic principles of respect of independence and sovereignity of each state, noninterference in internal affairs, respect of the choice of each nation, including political, economic, and religious matters. Today to those 15 documents which had been already signed earlier between our states, another 9 were added. The main one is the memorandum on mutual understanding and agreement between the Isalmic Republic of Iran and Kazakhstan which we will sign later today.

As for now, we have signed the following documents: memorandum between the governments on reciprocal visits by citizens, memorandum between the governments on cooperation in the field of transport, about the transit procedures between the industrial ministries, between the national banks, and on the foundations of the customs relations. That is, namely the questions which are of paramount mutual interest. The question of connecting the railway which is under construction from the Iranian side, and from our side on the territory of Turkmenistan which will give the former USSR Central Asian Republics an access to the warm seas along the shortest possible way, use of highways, use of the Caspian Sea for sea transport—these are the main questions which interest both us and the Iranian side, and we reach complete mutual inderstanding in these matters. We instructed relevant departments to develop the issue of constructing oil and gas main pipeline through the territory of Iran. As is known, Turkmenistan is beginning such work. For this reason, I think that in economic questions we have concluded treaties and accords beneficial for both Kazakhstan and Iran. [end recording]

Signs Accords; Holds News Conference

LD2510125293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] In continuation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan, nine documents were signed today preparing the framework and grounds for cooperation between the two countries.

On the basis of these agreements the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and Kazakhstan reach agreement and begin joint cooperation in the fields of transportation, communication, agriculture, energy, marine matters, trade and industry, banking, customs and consular affairs. The two countries also released a joint communique.

Afterward the two countries' presidents held a news conference in which they stressed the importance and the role of the cooperation documents in the two nations' ties, and the strong ties between Iran and Kazakhstan. They asked for speedy implementation of these agreements.

Mr. Nazarbayev thanked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his assistance in repatriation of the Kazakhs living in the IRI. The president of Kazakhstan, while expressing gratitude for the role played by Iran in establishment of peace and stability in Asia, said: Iran is one of the biggest and most powerful countries of the region and can influence the world situation.

Mr. Nazarbayev termed the role of Iran-Kazakhstan joint cooperation in solving the regional crises as highly significant and practical. He said: We share the same opinion as the IRI on the need for solving the regional and international crises; and, while observing the principle of refraining from intervention in the affairs of others, so as to end the massacre of innocent Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Karabakh crisis, and the Tajikistan crisis, we would like to assist these countries. He added that his country wishes to cooperate with Iran within the framework of the ECO and the Caspian Sea Cooperation Organization.

Our country's president, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, told various correspondents of the world media that thanks to the existence of plenty of grounds for cooperation, the most important steps have been taken toward strengthening and expanding the two countries' ties. The main condition for the implementation of these agreements is to establish communication links, transportation, and banking cooperation first.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: Our cooperation is in the interest of the entire region and there are no obstacles in this field. In view of the many common cultural and historical backgrounds, the two nations support this. Our country's president said: The two countries share the same stance on international issues and there is no difference of opinion.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for solving the Tajikistan problem and said: By inviting the foreign minister of Tajikistan to Tehran soon, the first step will be taken for Iran's mediation to end the Tajikistan crisis via peaceful means.

Our country's president stressed the need for cooperation among all the Asian countries to restore security and tranquillity, and to safeguard peace. He added: We have held talks with some countries, including Kazakhstan and (? India) on this issue.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, by laying a wreath, paid tribute to the heroes who defended Kazakhstan's independence. Also today our country's president inspected the second exclusive fair opened by the IRI in Almaty. Goods made by 77 companies in our country are on display at this fair.

Further on Accord Signed

LD2510171893 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpts] President of Iran Hashemi-Rafsanjani continues his visit to Kazakhstan. [passage omitted]

The Kazakh side to the talks was represented by Prime Minister Tereshchenko, his deputy Syzdyk Abishev, Nurtay Abykayev, head of the Office of the President and Cabinet of Ministers, state advisor Tulegen Zhukeev, Foreign Minister Suleymenov, Defense Minister Nurmagambetov, Baykenov, minister of power engineering and fuel resources [name and title as received], Minister of Transport Isingarin [name and title as received], and the ambassador of our republic to Iran, Dzholdasbekov [name and title as received]. [passage omitted on the documents signed and the news conference]

The president of Iran laid a wreath at the Glory Memorial, visited the high mountain sports complex Medeo, and the Central Mosque of Almaty. Speaking at the National Academy of Sciences, he said that he was very glad about that meeting. The Koran says, reminded the eminent guest, that scientists have priority against others because they advance mankind forward and teach humanity and culture to people. Geographic borders should not impede our mutual enrichment in the field of science, continued the president. We remember your great al-Farabi whose heritage we study very carefully at our universities.

He stated that as the chairman of the Council of the Cultural Revolution and member of the Academy of Sciences of Iran, he will do everything possible for ties between the two countries to grow stronger and develop further.

During the evening, in the residence where the president of Iran is staying, a ceremony of signing the main joint document, the Memorandum on Mutual Understanding and Cooperation, took place. It was signed by Nazarbayev and Rafsanjani.

Tomorrow morning the Iranian delegation will leave for Karaganda.

Military Industry Forced To Cut Back

PM2210123193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Video report from Kazakhstan by A. Nugmanova and V. Zhilyakov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Nugmanova over video of conversion exhibition, men in uniform]) Kazakhstan's defense industry is forced to cut back. There is no demand for its output on the internal market, and the ties with other CIS states which were built up over many years have been disrupted. Difficulties with reciprocal payments act as a barrier. The orders for sophisticated high-precision equipment came mainly from Russia. This is why defense industry enterprises are having to master the production of new consumer goods for which there is mass demand, goods which can be sold for hard currency, and goods needed at home. For example these refrigerators. They are produced in accordance with new technology based on the thermoelectricity principle. This does away with the use of freon which destroys the ozone layer. Lasers developed and made in Kazakhstan enjoy a good reputation in the world. Thanks to conversion it has been possible to produce urgently needed aids for invalids locally.

[Vice President G. Abilsiitov] Naturally, we will still produce a certain amount of military equipment at our enterprises. This equipment will be needed mainly by our allies, above all Russia. [video shows conversion exhibition, refrigerator, lasers, wheelchairs]

Three Political Parties Registered, Two Rejected

LD2110144293 Almaty Radio Almaty World Service in English 1930 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] According to the Ministry of Justice, altogether three political parties have been officially registered in Kazakhstan. These are the Socialist Party, the Republican Party, and the People's Congress. According to a spokesman at the Justice Ministry, those parties which have not been registered are not being recognized as being legal.

It was reported that the Kazakhstani Ministry of Justice has refused for the fourth time to register the Communist Party of Kazakhstan as a legal political party. Another party, the Freedom Party, has also been denied its legality because this party claims its goal to liberate eastern (?Turkestan). This is at present known as the Xinjiang-Uighur Autonomous Region, presently in northwestern China. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to register a party with such a claim is tantamount to interfering with another's internal affairs.

Monetary Integration Under Discussion in Almaty

LD2210223093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] In Almaty, Kazakh and Russian Government officials are discussing ways of integrating their countries monetary systems. In an interview with Interfax, Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin describes the integration process as "a fairly long road with several stopovers."

During the current stage, he said, the sides are to agree on social and economic development standards to work out a common fiscal policy and devise a monetary integration mechanism.

His Kazakh counterpart Daulet Sembayev, for his part, noted that "it is extremely difficult to bring the monetary systems together, not only economically but otherwise." In his words, Kazakhstan, where the rubles, issued in 1961-1962, are in circulation now, is trying to replace them with newly-issued Russian banknotes as soon as possible. A delay, as Sembayev remarked, will adversely affect the republic's finances. Furthemore, Kazakhstan has not received new rubles from Russia's Central Bank.

Shokhin emphasized that his country was well aware of the cash problem in the ruble zone states. As "Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and other countries will run out of old rubles soon, their wish to put 1993 banknotes into circulation quickly stands to reason." At the same time, Russia would prefer that "this technical problem, caused by the Central Bank in many ways, does not discourage the countries and drive them to unbalanced decisions," he said.

Shokhin also reported that he was scheduled to meet on Saturday with President Nazarbayev, the architect of the new ruble zone.

Man Posing as Nazarbayev's Brother in U.S. 'Impostor'

LD2210110593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[Text] Almaty October 22 TASS—A man who posed in the United States for Bolat Nazarbayev—the brother of the Kazakh president, was an impostor, the Kazakh "EXPRESS K" newspaper reported on Friday.

The impostor participated in negotiations in Chicago at the end of August between western and eastern businessmen and reports said he had concluded a deal on exporting Kazakh cotton.

The press service of the Kazakh president said that Bolat Nazarbayev, the brother of the president, did not go to Chicago and is not a cotton dealer.

Kyrgyzstan

Tehran, Bishkek To Exchange Oil, Electricity

LD2210145393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 21 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek October 22 TASS—Iran and Kyrgyzstan signed 13 cooperation agreements during the visit of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Bishkek which ended Friday.

Iran will help the former Soviet Central Asian republic to do away with shortages of oil products, while Kyrgyzstan pledged to supply its electricity to the Iranian province of Horasan.

The documents also include a trade agreement, a memorandum on cooperation in education which grants Kyrgyzstan an access to Iranian technologies which it can purchase at low prices.

Currently 10 Kyrgyz diplomats are studying in the diplomatic academy of Iran.

New Socialist Democratic Party Registered

LD2210195393 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] The Kyrgyz Law Ministry has held a registration and presentation ceremony of the Socialist Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan. The new party in its declaration speaks about itself as a parliamentary party with 631 members supporting socialist democratic ideals. Among its co-chairmen are Artagayev, head of the state administration of Dzhalabad Oblast; Erkibayev, head of administration of Osh Oblast; Ibraimov, head of Bishkek administration and the chairman of the control chamber of the Supreme Soviet.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Troops Shelled From Afghanistan

LD2510175393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1133 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Russian border guards of the 12th post on the Tajik-Afghan border came under mortar shell and rocket fire from the Afghan territory twice on Sunday, informed Tajik military sources told Interfax.

They said that there were no casualties among the servicemen. The number of shells fired at them was not immediately known. Fire was returned and the enemy positions are said to be neutralized.

The same sources said that a border patrol was fired at from automatic weapons by an unknown band, which was partly positioned in Afghanistan, in the vicinity of the village of Avz, Ishkashshim District of Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. One Russian servicemen was injured.

Military sources think that the firing was designed to divert attention from a band of smugglers who crossed into Tajikistan on the same day and were apprehended while in the possession of a large amount of narcotics.

The sources attribute the increased tension on the border to the arrival of border guard reinforcements from Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Dushanbe Denies Shelling Afghan Villages

LD2510180093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By "KHOVAR" news agency corresponent Salaohiddin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe October 25 TASS—The Tajik Defence Ministry issued a statement on Monday denying Afghanistan's accusations of shelling Afghan villages.

The Tajik Government troops for the past few days have not been attempting any combat actions against targets on the Afghan side, the statement said adding that "units of the Defence Ministry are now under planned combat training and getting military equipment ready for winter colds".

According to the document, some units of the Defence Ministry, the Committee on National Security, the Interior Ministry of Tajikistan and Russian border troops are located in the most vulnerable areas ready to cut short any attempt to violate the state border.

Russian Border Guards, Tajik Militants Exchange Fire

LD2610113393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 26 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe October 26 TASS—A Russian border post on the Tajik-Afghan border was fired at from a mortar from Tajik territory late on Monday and the artillery of the Russian 201st Motorized Rifle Division stationed in the Central Asian republic delivered a strike on the firing stronghold of opposition militants, according to the press center of the Russian frontier troops.

It said none of the border guards at the 13th post was injured. Casualties among militants are being specified.

However, one border guard was wounded in a clash with armed militants who tried to get into the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan from Afghanistan one of these days. Three attackers were seized.

In the last three days Russian border guards cut short attempts of two small groups of Tajik militants to penetrate into Tajikistan from Afghanistan in the Pyandzh border district.

Border guards also discovered a new hiding place with jet charges and ammunition of militants.

Armed Terrorist Groups Active in Dushanbe

AU2510205593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Oct 93 p 4

[Yuriy Kushko report from Dushanbe]

[Text] **Even though the corresponding edict of the republic's Supreme Council presidium was signed as far back as at the end of September, the Regulations on the Special Regime for Citizens' Entry into Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe became effective almost simultaneously with that in Moscow. Here, the analogies end, because, in Moscow, the curfew has already been lifted and the results of the "purges" are not so striking—just several thousand "lumpens" have been expelled from the Russian capital.**

At the same time, in Dushanbe, just over 10 days of action of the special regime, 128 thousand (!) persons have been expelled and the treasury has increased by 54,000 rubles [R] taken as fines. This is just the beginning, as the regime was introduced for the entire period of the emergency situation. So far, no one has discussed its duration.

All those arriving in Dushanbe and planning to stay there for more than three days must register at the Department of Internal Affairs. All those who have no documents or persons who have not been registered or who are suspected of violating laws will be expelled without an explanation. Besides, those citizens of the republic who decided to visit the capital must obtain a special permit at the territorial Department of Internal Affairs, no matter how long they plan to stay in Dushanbe. In addition to expulsion, violators must also pay fines ranging between R3,000 and R5,000.

The situation in the republic justifies such measures. According to the Press Center of the Dushanbe Internal Affairs Ministry Administration, in the last month, 21 Kalashnikov sub-machine guns, 18 hand grenades, one machine gun, five pistols, three grenade throwers, and 13 combat shells were confiscated in Dushanbe and an

organized terrorist gang engaged in subversive and terrorist activity was neutralized. During the arrest, six sub-machine guns, a carbine, and bulletproof vests were found in the possession of the gang members. The total number of such groups is not known. In accordance with the edict, all those formations that do not belong to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, or Ministry of National Security must be disarmed by 25 October and guarding services of those persons who are not on the list approved by the Supreme Council Presidium must be disbanded. The results of the fulfillment of this part of the edict are not known so far.

Authorities Continue Arrests of Opposition Activists

LD2210221193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Dushanbe October 22 TASS—Tajik law enforcement bodies arrested Oinikhon Bobonazarova, deputy chairman of the Tajik Democratic Party and presidium member of the Nadzhoti Vatan (Defence of Homeland) Party. She was lecturer of the legal faculty at Tajik University until recently.

Asked by ITAR-TASS, the republican procurator's office confirmed the arrest, stressing that it was authorised by the procurator-general. However, the office refused to comment on the event, referring to "secrecy of investigation."

Nevertheless, ITAR-TASS learnt from reliable sources that Bobnazarova is accused of betraying the homeland and active participation in a paramilitary organisation (Nadzhoti Vatan).

According to the procurator's office, Nadzhoti Vatan made an armed attempt to overthrow the constitutional system in the republic, which resulted in the civil war and numerous casualties among civilians.

The Tajik Supreme Court passed a judgement on banning several opposition parties and movements in Tajikistan on similar charges several months earlier, while the republican procurator-general instituted criminal cases against their top leaders and activists.

Regrettably, it is now impossible to find out the exact number of the arrested. However, in the opinion of independent analysts, their number may run into several dozen.

ITAR-TASS learnt that the former top executives of the so-called people's television (present state committee for television and radio broadcasting) Mirbobo Mirrakhimov and Akhmadzho Kamilov are still interned at investigative wards.

The republican Supreme Court tries prominent Tajik poet Bozor Sobir who is charged with several accusations, including collusion in abducting a group of Tajik legislators in the summer of 1992 as well as public calls for overthrowing the legitimate government.

In the meantime, the main opposition leaders, including Shodmon Yusuf, chairman of the Tajik Democratic Party, Davlat Usmon, co-chairman of the Islamic Revival Party and Khodzhiakbar Turadzhonzoda, the former spiritual leader of the Tajik Moslems, have not abandoned the idea of armed struggle against, as they say, "procommunist regime of power in Tajikistan.

They are now outside Tajikistan, living in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Iran and making numerous public statements and interviews with the local mass media to drum up support for new attempts to overthrow the present government in the Tajik Republic.

CIS Commander Meets With Gorno-Badakhshan Leaders

LD2210163993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1106 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By "KHOVAR" news agency correspondent Sadansho Nafasshoyev for TASS]

[Text] Khorog October 22 TASS—Boris Piyankov, commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States' peace-keeping forces, has met with leaders and field commanders of the self-ruled Tajik region of Gorno-Badakhshan in the Pamir mountains.

Speaking at the meeting, he urged local leaders to pool efforts with the Commonwealth peace-keepers "to defend Tajikistan's state border from bandit attacks (of opposition militants from Afghanistan) and return peace and stability to this ancient land."

The Tajik-Afghan border will be defended by frontier troops, however CIS peace-keeping headquarters are ready to form defensive "territorial" troops out of the local youth, he said.

Rahmonov Message on UN International Day

LD2510200493 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The world community yesterday celebrated the International Day of the United Nations. In accordance with this, Imamali Rahmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan issued a statement, which points out in particular:

Established after World War II, the UN Organization has united the efforts of the nations in order to rid mankind of the disaster of war and promote and consolidate peace. The entry of Tajikistan into the United Nations on 2 March 1992 denoted the recognition of our independence and state sovereignty by the world community. In entering the UN Organization, we have recognized its charter; this is a worldwide code for international life and requires that we observe the letter and spirit of this document in our policy.

Equal partnership, social progress, and protection for human rights—these are the choice of the legal authority in Tajikistan. We are striving to restore the bright peace in our country after the gloom of the civil war and to settle friendly relations with all countries.

The participation of a delegation of Tajikistan in the work of the 48th UN General Assembly has indeed become a landmark in the history of the republic. Such a high rostrum was granted to the head of the Republic of Tajikistan for the first time; this has opened a path to direct talk with the world community and has enabled us to bring the pains and suffering of our people to the hearts of many people. The path chosen by our country for the creation of a law-based, democratic, and secular state has become clear to everybody.

As you know, the formation of independent and sovereign Tajikistan was darkened [words indistinct] senseless fratricidal war, which was unleashed by destructive forces, and it is in this difficult period of our history that we could rely on the support of the world community. The UN observer mission has commenced its activity in Tajikistan. Representative offices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and the World Food Program have been opened through its mediation [passage indistinct]. All these have made no small contribution to the cause of stabilizing the situation in the republic. The presence of Ismat Kittani, a special envoy of the UN secretary general in Tajikistan, has played a particular role in the cause of settling our problems.

The development of the situation in Tajikistan [word indistinct] is a subject of constant attention of the UN Security Council. Thanks to this, the republic has gained steady political support and can actively inform the world community on the real state of affairs in the country. Apart from moral and political support, our people have received humanitarian assistance in difficult times as well, and this is continuing to arrive.

Gratitude for these efforts was expressed by me on behalf of the whole people of Tajikistan during my meeting with His Excellency Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, in New York. The issues of our future cooperation were discussed in a spirit of complete understanding. We described our [words indistinct] development of the situation in the course of discussing the issues of regulating the problems in and around Tajikistan it with the secretary general and his deputies.

Since the start of restoring the principle of supremacy of law, we favored tackling the existing problems by political means. We are ready for a dialogue with all who seek national reconciliation and civil concord. Our intention is to cooperate constructively with the forces of any political orientation which function on the basis of conformity to natural laws and respecting the generally accepted norms of democracy. [passage omitted on UN history]

Relying on UN peacemaking, we are entering into a new stage of development of the world community, of which Tajikistan is a full member. We do not intend to stop the gathering speed of successful interaction of the United Nations and other international organizations with the government of the republic. Side by side with humanitarian cooperation, we see the necessity of increasing the efforts of the UN institutions in the cause of restoration and development of our society. We are confident that the restoration of civil peace and concord in society, involving every citizen of Tajikistan in the process, will bring about the prosperity of our beloved motherland.

Council Chairman Concludes Moscow Visit

LD2510185193 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Abbumalik Abdullojonov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, has concluded his official visit to the Russian Federation. He arrived home from Moscow today.

Abdumalik Abdullojonov had several meetings and talks with the leaders of the Russian Federation, especially Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, during his visit which lasted several days. He exchanged opinions on issues pertaining to sending cash to the Republic of Tajikistan and implementation of the agreement between Tajikistan and the Tyumen oblast on the dispatch of fuel products.

Abdumalik Abdullojonov left for the town of Kulyab after his arrival from Moscow to familiarize himself with the situation of the towns and rayons of the area.

Supreme Council Official Continues Geneva Visit

LD2210203793 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Kozidavlat Koimdodov, deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council, who is in Geneva at the invitation of Aga Khan IV, the leader of the world Ismailid Muslims, met the Aga Khan at a meeting lasting more than four hours.

Koimdodov conveyed a message from Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council, to the leader of world Muslim Ismailidis and spoke about the political and economic situation in the republic.

For his part, the Aga Khan pointed out that Tajikistan had survived difficult days, which will not be repeated. I am ready, he said, to help the Republic of Tajikistan. Assistance has already been rendered to Gorno-Badakhshan and this assistance will continue to be rendered in the future.

The Aga Khan has accepted with gratitude an invitation from Imamali Rakhmanov to pay a visit to Tajikistan. The answer to the message from the head of state will be conveyed through Koimdodov.

During his stay in Geneva, Koimdodov met Andreas Fritrison, secretary general of the National Bank of Switzerland, Jan Perrot and Marcos Semaro, deputy directors of the National Bank of Switzerland in Geneva.

Koimdodov met Vladimir Petrovskiy, under secretary general of the UN and had talks at the International Committee for Refugees, International Committee for the Red Cross and in the Russian Embassy. Issues pertaining to the political and economic situation in

Tajikistan were discussed in the course of these meetings. Similarly, issues on the return of the refugees from Afghanistan and stabilization of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border were discussed. The interlocutors regarded with understanding the problems of our republic and gave assurances that all-round support will be rendered.

Koimdodov's visit to Switzerland continues.

Government Said To Lose Patience With Communist Press

PM2110124193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Karpov report: "'Voice of Tajikistan' Learns Lessons From Prokhanov"]

[Text] Dushanbe—The Tajikistan communist press is hampering the normalization of relations between Dushanbe and its neighbors.

To begin with, one indisputable claim being made everywhere in Tajikistan: The republic is simply not in a position to get out of the profound political and socioeconomic crisis on its own. You can discuss at length and persuasively the reasons, both objective and subjective, for the sorry state of affairs in the country today, but the fact remains: Very extensive business cooperation contacts with partners, both from nearby foreign countries and more distant ones, are absolutely vital. In the name of achieving prosperity at home.

One of the first and perhaps most important steps taken by the present leadership of Tajikistan on this path was the signing of the treaty on large-scale cooperation with Russia. This was last spring. However, the overall satisfaction on this score was somewhat marred by an article in one of the May editions of GOLOS TADZHIKISTANA, the republic Communist Party newspaper. The article spoke of the Russian leadership's role in the situation which prevails on the territory of the former USSR and, notably contained highly unequivocal attacks on President Boris Yeltsin, wounding the dignity of the Russian leader. This issue of the newspaper came out on the eve of the official visit of a Tajik delegation headed by Supreme Soviet Chairman E. Rakhmonov to Moscow.

By September, this story was fortunately forgotten but, as it turned out, in vain. On the eve of Emomali Rakhmonov's first official visit to the United States to participate in the work of the UN General Assembly, the same newspaper suddenly places on its pages a reprint from SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA with an obviously negative attitude to the United States, a country with which the government of Tajikistan is establishing friendly relations, which it wants to consolidate, and with which it is setting up mutually advantageous cooperation. Comparing this with the aforesaid spring article in GOLOS TADZHIKISTANA provided grounds for thinking about the specific position of the newspaper's editorial office in respect of the international activity of the republic's authorities. But even that article was passed over in diplomatic silence by official structures in Tajikistan, which the journalists of a communist hue doubtless took to be fitting.

Finally, the authorities' patience ran out. The Tajikistan leader's press service published a statement concerning certain articles in the republic's communist newspapers. The document assesses the activity of GOLOS TADZHIKISTANA as deliberate steps aimed at complicating the progress of the Dushanbe authorities' talks with official representatives of various countries. The press service statement does not contain wordy assessments of the republic Communist Party's ideological leadership of its own publication, but only expresses the hope that this leadership will henceforth be more efficient and well-grounded. In this connection, it should be recalled how the confrontation with the parliament and government ended in the republic for the opposition papers which no longer exist.

...The concept of the "opposition" is gradually being replaced by a different definition in Tajikistan—antigovernment forces. But the scandal concerning the GOLOS TADZHIKISTANA makes you think unwittingly of a revival of the opposition, this time a communist version.

Turkmenistan

Arrives in Ashgabat

LD2210172393 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Ashgabat, Oct 22 (IRNA)—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, today and was warmly welcomed by his Turkman counterpart Saparmurad Niyazov.

Upon arrival the president said Iran was keen to further expand its ties and cooperation with neighboring Turkmenistan.

Niyazov also told reporters that prospects of mutual relations and cooperation were bright, and that a few documents have been preprared in this respect which would be signed during Rafsanjani's visit.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani termed "successful" his two-day visit to Kyrgyzstan.

Speaking to reporters before his departure from Bishkek, he referred to the common viewpoints of the two countries concerning bilateral cooperation, and said his visit to Kyrgyzstan was a cornerstone for lasting and deep cooperation.

Attends Border Opening Ceremony

LD2210200393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Continuing the expansion process in Iran-Turkmenistan cooperation, the two countries' border in

the Darreh-Gaz region was reopened this afternoon in the presence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Saparmurad Niyazov, the two countries' presidents.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is in Turkmenistan continuing his tour of the Central Asian republics, attended a ceremony this afternoon with Turkmen President Niyazov at the two countries' border region in the Lotfabad district in Darreh-Gaz and opened the border between the two countries.

During the same ceremony a document was signed between our country's foreign affairs minister and the deputy Turkmen president for political affairs, facilitating consular cooperation, border protection, and the traffic of the two countries' national. Then Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a gathering of Darreh-Gaz citizens who assembled at the Lotfabad Customs of Darreh-Gaz. Addressing them he said: We hope this region becomes a model for cooperation between the two countries' people and that you people try to rid yourselves of the deadlock which has ruled the region so far. We hope that you peaceful, sincere, and freedom-seeking people work hand in hand and construct your region as best as you can.

Mr. Niyazov described Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Turkmenistan as a historic event and expressed the hope that the visit results in the expansion of the two countries' relations.

Meets With Niyazov

LD2310102293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] In the first round of talks between the presidents of our country and Turkmenistan, Turkmen President Niyazov began by expressing satisfaction at the visit of our country's president to Turkmenistan. He said: Our people are hopeful that the trip will have positive results.

He said cooperation in the field of road, rail, air, and sea transport and the establishment of communication links will create an economic boom in Central Asia and be to the advantage of the two peoples, the region, and the world.

The president of Turkmenistan pointed to the common religious, historical, and cultural elements between Iran and Turkmenistan and said: Cooperation between the two countries in the context of ECO—the Economic Cooperation Organization—and with the Caspian Sea littoral states will strengthen development and stability in the region.

Mr. Niyazov thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to establish peace and stability in the region.

In turn Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the people and Government of Turkmenistan for their hospitality and expressed satisfaction at the expansion of relations and the implementation of earlier agreements. There are no obstacles in the way of expanding cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan, he said.

Our country's president added: Fortunately the foundation of relations between the two countries has taken shape and the infrastructure for the expansion of future cooperation has now been laid. Cooperation in the fields of science, culture, transport, trade, banking, and industry has now found its proper course, as well as visits by the nationals of the two countries.

Stressing the importance of maintaining stability and peace in the region in order to deepen cooperation, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: More than at any other time our region needs stability and peace, and efforts by Turkmenistan to develop while maintaining peace is a cause of satisfaction. Mr. Rafsanjani added: Through closer cooperation and unity, the Central Asian countries should solve all regional problems and issues, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to help in this regard. Our country's president also hoped that the problems of Tajikistan will be solved according to the will of its people.

Finally, committees were formed on political affairs, transport, oil and gas, trade and banking, culture, science, and education, industry, mining and metals, customs, post and communication, and energy, to study ways and means of expanding cooperation in these areas.

Further on Niyazov Meeting

LD2210204693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov met in Ashgabat with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is on an official visit there. The two men had a 60-minute closed door talk on Friday.

On the same day, Niyazov gave his guest an Akhal-Tekin pedigree horse as present.

The Iranian president plans to visit historic sites in the east of Turkmenistan on October 23rd.

At the end of the visit numerous documents will be signed, notably a declaration on friendship and cooperation, a memorandum on construction of a West Turkmenistan-Iran-Europe pipeline and documents on cooperation in various areas.

Holds Joint News Conference

LD2410180293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Unidentified correspondent's report from Almaty on news conference held by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Turkmen President Niazov in Turkmenistan on 24 October]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted on Rafsanjani's arrival in Almaty and on his last morning in Turkmenistan where he opened a school]

[Correspondent] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended a large gathering of scholars and prominent political figures, academics, students, and intellectuals

this morning. He expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended to him by the government and people of Turkmenistan. [passage omitted: more praise and appreciation of common cultural and Islamic heritage]

The presidents of the two countries signed a document on cooperation in all fields in the presence of scholars and students. They then took part in a news conference and assessed the outcome of their meetings as positive. They stressed that they were in agreement about issues they discussed in all their meetings. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The agreements signed between the officials of the two countries concern training and scientific cooperation; transport, industry, commerce, communications, oil and gas, and customs facilities cooperation; and maritime cooperation.

The president described our country's stance vis-a-vis the crisis in Tajikistan and said: Iran adheres to its foreign policy of noninterference in the affairs of others, and all the countries in the region are aware of this policy.

He said: We are doing our utmost to see a peaceful resolution of the crisis in Tajikistan, and the parties to the conflict should cooperate in this regard.

Mr. Separmurad Niyazov told reporters: The Government of Turkmenistan also believes that the Tajikistan crisis is an internal affair, and I am sure that the people of that country can, through their resolve and endurance, overcome their difficulties.

Accord on Gas Transit to Europe

LD2410183493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed to the transit of Turkmen natural gas to Europe via the northern part of Iranian territory. The presidents of two countries signed a memorandum of understanding in this connection at the end of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's official visit to Turkmenistan. According to the memorandum of understanding, the two sides have declared their agreement with regard to the transit of Turkmenistan's natural gas via the Turkmen-Europe gas pipeline, with a maximum capacity of 31 billion cubic meters per year, which will pass through the northern part of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the basis of the agreement, Turkmenistan will export its gas to Europe using this pipeline for 25 years.

Turkmenistan is among the world's richest countries in gas reserves. In this respect, it ranks second in Central Asia after Russia.

On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan are to cooperate in the antinarcotics battle along the two countries' joint border. The framework of this cooperation was defined this afternoon in a memorandum of understanding signed by the two countries' roads and transport ministers. On the basis of this memorandum of understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan will launch a joint battle against the illegal transport of drugs and medical stimulants by using their experience, technical equipment, and trained and experienced dogs.

Ends Visit With Joint Communique

LD2410172693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 93

[Text] At the end of the official visit of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Turkmenistan, which lasted three days, a joint communique on the outcome of the visit was issued simultaneously in Tehran and Ashgabat.

In part, the communique stresses the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to give all-encompassing support to Turkmenistan during the period when that country's national currency is being put into circulation.

According to the communique, Iran and Turkmenistan are agreed on the point that no decision may be taken about the exploitation of the Caspian Sea or about its international and legal standing, without the participation of all its coastal countries.

The two sides have also expressed pleasure about the establishment of a cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh and other areas of dispute between the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia. The communique has stressed the need for finding a political solution to the crisis on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The two countries have also stressed the need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. The presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan stated that the establishment of peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan will be possible through constructive dialogue with opposition groups, and through the fulfillment of the interests of the people of Tajikistan.

Holds News Conference

LD2510183693 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Russian 0200 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani ended his visit to Turkmenistan yesterday. The three-day visit of the delegation of the friendly country was fruitful. During this short time Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov], president of Turkmenistan, opened the freight transport station with the participation of other state officials. They also visited Mary and Tashauz velayats and completed two stages of high-level talks.

Saparmurad Turkmenbashy and 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani yesterday attended a ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the Iranian school in our capital and took part in the festival of Turkmen applied art. Regular talks took place at the presidential mansion.

A meeting on Turkmen-Iranian friendship was held yesterday at the Mekan Mansion of the Humanitarian Association of Turkmens of the World. During the talks, Yagmyr Ovezov, governor of Ashgabat and deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, confirmed that Iranian president 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the first person from abroad to have been accepted as the honorary citizen of the city of Ashgabat. This was decided on 20 October.

At the Mekan Mansion, the presidents of the two countries signed a 10-year contract between Iran and Turkmenistan on friendship and cooperation and agreements on construction of the railroad and gas pipeline which will link Turkmenistan with Europe.

After the documents were signed, a news conference was held. Now you will hear the report which our correspondent has prepared on this news conference.

[Begin recording] [Rafsanjani, in Persian] The pipeline that is planned to cross Iran is useful for all; it is useful for Turkmenistan because it is an appropriate direction and it is useful for Iran and those who want to use this gas. Iran provides the shortest distance to the gas consumer market. And Turkmenistan must be freed from being limited to only one route. It must be able to make its gas reach the consumer markets through different routes. This is more (?useful) for you.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Rafsanjani] We will send representatives and we will hold meetings in Tehran. One of the most important tasks of your president is introducing the new national currency. Without national currency no one can claim independence. I congratulate Mr. Niyyazov and your people who bravely undertook this, and I wish you success. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Nine documents were signed by relevant ministries and departments among the delegation of Iran. These documents cover cultural, economic, and poiltical issues between the two countries. The presidents of the two countries were at the Mekan Mansion, visited [word indistinct], and later went to the Ashgabat airport. Thus the Iranian delegation's visit to Turkmenistan has ended.

Uzbekistan

Russia's Shokhin Arrives in Tashkent for Talks

LD2310175593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] A Russian-Uzbek inter-governmental commission on the unification of the two states' monetary systems gathered for a session in Tashkent on Saturday.

The commission's co-chairman, Russia's Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who had participated in a similar Russian-Kazakh commission earlier, told Interfax that Russia's approach to the problem implied a long preparatory period, during which the states concerned must harmonize their laws and main social and economic indices, and work out a mechanism of replacing the rubles printed in 1961-1992 with a new Russian monetary unit.

Uzbek co-chairman, Vice Premier Bekhtiyar Khamidov stated that old banknotes worth 600 bn to 620 bn [billion] rubles were still in circulation in Uzbekistan.

He noted that the cash should be exchanged as soon as possible in the interests of the 2.5 Mn [million] ethnic Russians living in Uzbekistan, whose contacts with relatives were hampered by the absence of new banknotes. In his estimate, the economic conditions are ripe for exchanging the banknotes.

Briefing at Moscow Embassy on Foreign Policy

LD2210222893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 22 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Mikhail Voronenkov]

[Text] Moscow October 22 TASS—A briefing for Russian and foreign journalists, held at the Uzbek Embassy here today, was devoted to Uzbekistan's new foreign policy initiatives, listed by President Islam Karimov in his speech to the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Uzbek Ambassador to Moscow Yusuf Abdullayev noted the Uzbek Government's concern over the continuing conflict in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border. He stressed that Uzbekistan strongly condemned extremism, terrorism, regional fanatism, and fundamentalism in all their forms. The Republic of Uzbekistan comes out for a peaceful settlement of the conflict by peaceful means, for talks between the conflicting sides. Uzbekistan is ready to go on rendering humanitarian aid to the Tajik people, primarily to refugees returning home from Afghanistan.

Abdullayev drew the attention of journalists to President Karimov's motion, voiced from the rostrum of the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly, to organise in Tashkent a permanent U.N seminar on problems of security, stability and cooperation in Central Asia. In keeping with the U.N. Charter, all the countries concerned, could discuss at this seminar ways to establish a dependable system of regional security in the area.

Uzbekistan supports the idea of enhancing the role of the United Nations as a world institution designed to ensure the planet's security, suggested by U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Ghali. In light of this, the Uzbek president has moved to set up a special team under the U.N. Security Council to analyse and forecast brewing international conflicts in order to prevent their escalation from positions of active peace-making and preventive diplomacy.

While calling for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, for effective actions and termless prolongation of the nuclear weapons nonproliferation treaty, the

Republic of Uzbekistan comes out as a convinced advocate of a nuclear-free zone in the Central Asian region. Uzbekistan also deems it necessary to establish international control over the non-proliferation of chemical and bacteriological weapons in this region.

The other initiatives of Uzbekistan include proposals to step up the world community's joint efforts to combat drugtrafficking, to enhance the role of the United Nations in environmental protection and prevention of global ecological disasters. This refers to the Aral Sea tragedy in the Central Asian region.

The Uzbek ambassador told ITAR-TASS that his country had no differences with Russia. Uzbekistan concluded a treaty on the principles of inter-state relations, friendship and cooperation with Russia on May 30, 1992. About 30 bilateral agreements have already been concluded on an equitable and mutually profitable basis between the two countries within the framework of this treaty.

Armenia

Fighting Reported on Southern Borders of Karabakh

NC2510201993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that the defensive positions near Vahan in Krasnoselskiy Rayon came under howitzer fire this morning. There are casualties. Relative calm has prevailed on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border since last night.

The situation remains tense on the Karabakh battle fronts. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Headquarters reported that having violated the cease-fire, the Azerbaijani Army formations, with the assistance of an enormous number of armored cars deployed in recent days, are trying hard to break through the Karabakh Army's defensive line along the Gadrutskiy-Dzhebrailskiy sector of the war front.

However, it is being reported from Stepanakert that despite the disparity of the forces, the Karabakh Army's formations have succeeded in halting and repelling the enemy's unceasing offensives by inflicting considerable losses on it in man and material.

The battles are continuing in this sector of the war front. Casualty figures are being determined.

Karabakh Foreign Ministry on Azerbaijani Attacks

NC2510193993 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 0950 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Foreign Ministry issued a statement on 23 October. In referring to the sharp escalation in the military operations by the Azerbaijanis, in particular at the southern sectors of the conflict zone, the statement notes that the security of the peaceful population in Gadrut and the nearby villages are under threat.

The statement says that Azerbaijan's renewed aggressive operation can in no way be justified, in particular in view of the fact that the NKR leadership agreed to extend the cease-fire by one more month by acceding to the pleas of the highest leadership in Azerbaijan. The perfidious offensive by the Azerbaijani formations evinces the "new political course" of that republic.

The NKR Foreign Ministry considers it to be its duty to draw the international community's attention to the latest chain of developments which expose the real intentions of Azerbaijan.

The statement says in conclusion that the entire responsibility for the future escalation of the military operations lies with the Azerbaijani leadership.

Karabakh Calls For Independent Group on POW Affairs

NC2510224593 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2000 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] State Commission on POWs and Hostages issued the following statement yesterday: In connection with the numerous statements made by the Azerbaijani leadership to the press on the existence of a few thousand POWs and hostages in Nagorno-Karbakh, the NKR State Commission on POWs and Hostages declares that such a concoction is devoid of foundation.

The number and location of the POWs and hostages and their living conditions are known to the International Committee of the Red Cross representatives accredited to NKR. All the POWs and hostages are being kept in accordance with international norms and are under the protection of the NKR Government.

The NKR State Commission on POWs and Hostages calls on all the interested international human rights organizations to form a commission of independent experts to obtain (?serious) information about the (?number) of POWs and hostages and their living conditions.

President Signs Georgia's Application to CIS

LD2510194793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan this evening received a working group of CIS staff workers, says the NeGa agency. The group is led by Ilya Vildzhanov, a representative of Turkmenistan. The group presented the application by Eduard Shevardnadze to join the CIS to the Armenia president. These documents must be signed by all the leaders of the Commonwealth countries.

Until now, only Boris Yeltsin has signed Shevardnadze's application. Levon Ter-Petrosyan signed the document today.

Azerbaijan

Reported Armenian Offense Reaches Iranian Border

Forces Reportedly Break Cease-Fire

NC2510180993 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televizivasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The situation has become quite tense along the border in recent days. According to a report issued by the Defense Ministry Analytical Center on 25 October, after having grossly violated the cease-fire agreement, the Armenian armed formations launched an attack from the direction of Fizulinskiy-Dzhebrailskiy under the cover of artillery shelling on 23 October.

On 24 October, the enemy forced the national army units to withdraw to the Iranian border and eventually occupied more that 20 settlements, including Goradiz town. This means that Zangelanskiy Rayon has thus been encircled by the enemy.

The Armenian units launched an attack into Kubatlinskiy Rayon and occupied the settlement of Ghumlak on 25 October.

The Armenians are approaching the Iranian border.

Our positions in Zangelanskiy, Kedabekskiy, and Kazakhskiy Rayons came under fierce shelling from the Armenian territory yesterday.

Bloody battles are continuing in those regions of Zangerlanskiy and Kubatlinskiy Rayons which have not yet been occupied.

Karabakh Troops Reach Border

LD2510184793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Armenian formations which continue the offensive in Azerbaijan's Fizuli and Jebrail regions have occupied the village of Goradiz and reached the river Araks bordering on Iran. The Zangelan region of Azerbaijan is in a blockade because the only road and railway linking this region with the rest of Azerbaijan run through Goradiz.

The headquarters of the Karabakh Defense Army told Interfax that the situation south of Nagorno-Karabakh sharply deteriorated on October 21 when the Azerbaijani army launched a large-scale offensive. During combat operations which continued for several days, the Karabakh forces checked the movement of the Azerbaijani forces in the Gadrut direction. The Karabakh Defense Army lost 9 soldiers and 47 were wounded. According to unverified reports from Stepanakert, Azerbaijan lost more than 90 soldiers. A total of 7 armored vehicles were put out of action and 5 seized, and 4 Grad launchers were captured.

The headquarters report that the Karabakh forces' successful counterattack caused panic among the Azerbaijani soldiers. Some of them abandoned positions.

According to confidential sources in Baku, the unsuccessful Azerbaijani attack was carried out by opposition forces which are not controlled by Baku.

Details on Advance to Border

NC2510210793 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1745 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, 25 Oct (AZERTAC)—The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry press service informed AZERTAC that after intensive military and propaganda preparations, the Armenian armed formations have again violated the cease-fire agreement and launched a large-scale offensive.

According to information available to the Defense Ministry, armed units from both Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian regions that border Azerbaijan are taking part in the offensive. The offensive is directed at the towns and settlements in Zangelanskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons that border on Iran.

So far a number of settlements have been occupied in Dzhebrailskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons, and the town of Goradiz, which had ensured communication with the unoccupied parts of Zangelanskiy and Kubatlinskiy rayons, was taken and set on fire by the armed units.

The Defense Ministry said that this region, which has a population of 60,000, has been cut off from the rest of the Republic. As a result of these attacks, the peaceful population faces annihilation by the bombardment from the Armenian artillery and armored vehicles.

With the renewed Armenian aggression, the zone of military operations has widened considerably, and the problem has assumed international dimensions.

Intensive military operations are continuing close to the Iranian border. Shells fired by the Armenian artillery have frequently fallen and exploded on the other side of the border. The existing situation is a threat not only to Azerbaijan, but also to its neighbors and to the region in general.

There have been considerable losses among the peaceful citizens as a result of the latest attack by the Armenian side. Some 15,000 residents of settlements near the Iranian border have taken shelter along the Azerbaijani-Iranian border to escape the attacks by the Armenian units. Some 5,000 Azerbaijani citizens have been forced to cross into Iran. At present, the Armenian occupiers are controlling more than 40 km of the Azerbaijani-Iranian border.

The statement says: Thus, Armenia has once again violated the cease-fire agreement and has launched a large-scale operation, the consequences of which cannot be predicted and which is fraught with danger for millions of inhabitants of the region.

The Republic's Defense Ministry is asking international organizations to urgently express their views on the situation in Azerbaijan's south that has resulted from Armenia's escalation of its military operations. The statement adds that if the world continues to remain indifferent to Armenia's growing appetite for occupation, then this ferocious aggressor will commit new crimes in the future.

Armenians Control 40 Km of Border

LD2510223793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2110 GMT 25 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, Armenian Armed Forces have begun a large-scale offensive, bringing into play military units stationed both in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the territory of Armenian

districts bordering Azerbaijan. As a result, several villages have been occupied in Dzhebrail and Fizuli districts. An area with a population of 60,000 has been cut off from the rest of Azerbaijan. Intensive fighting is going on in the immediate vicinity of the Iranian border. According to the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, the Armenian side controls more than 40 km of the Azerbaijan-Iranian border.

Refugees Flee Armenian Attacks in Southwest Region

LD2610115893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The Republic of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry announced that Zangalan district with population of 60,000 is under artillery fire from the Armenian army and its links with the outside world are cut off.

According to a report of the Central news Unit from Baku, as a result of the Armenian forces' operations in Jebrail and Zangalan in the southwestern region of the Azerbaijan Republic, about 20,000 inhabitants of these areas have fled their homes. On the basis of the same report the strategic village of Goradizh, which connects the two regions of Zangalan and Ghobadli and is currently occupied [by Armenian forces], was set ablaze in the Armenian forces' attack. In the course of the Armenian attacks on the residential areas in the southwestern region of the Azerbaijan Republic a large number of the inhabitants were either killed or wounded.

A report of the Central News Unit from Ardebil also indicates that on the basis of comments made by the officials from the occupied regions of the Azerbaijan Republic, the population of these regions is more than 100,000. Only about 18,000 of them, using various vehicles or even on foot, have crossed the Khoda Afarin Dam bridge over the River Aras in Moghan to reach the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thanks to the coordination of our country's authorities, these refugees have been transferred to the camps in the safe areas of the Azerbaijan Republic.

On the basis of this report, a responsible local official, quoting the refugees, announced: A large number of inhabitants of the occupied areas, mainly the people on foot, were either killed on the way or were drowned in the tributaries of the Aras River inside Azerbaijan territory. He has described the plight of the rural people and the poor as very pitiful indeed.

All the Azeri war refugees arriving in our country are taken to the Imishli camp inside the Azerbaijan Republic with all their belongings and livestocks.

Karabakh Leader: Baku Admits Violating Cease-Fire

LD2510144993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1151 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—"As a result of stepping up combat operations in the south of Nagorno-Karabakh the Karabakh army has reached the Iranian border as it launched a counter-offensive," Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Karabakh Defense Committee, told ITAR-TASS by telephone on Monday.

According to Kocharyan, after the Azeri army had seized five positions of the Karabakh defense [as received] in the Fisulin and Dzhebrail regions at the end of last week, the Karabakh leadership turned to Azeri and Russian authorities with a demand that the Azeri army observe a ceasefire agreement. However, the offensive continued.

Right now contacts between Karabakh and Azeri leaders have been stepped up with the aim of normalizing the situation. According to Kocharyan, Baku officials account for the violation of the moratorium by the fact that activities of Azeri formations on the south-west of Azerbaijan were out of control.

"Karabakh authorities demand to admit that the resumption of combat operations was provoked by the Azeri side, and come out for recognizing each other legitimate participants of the negotiating process," the Karabakh official said.

Reports from Stepanakert say that on monday, the situation in the zone of the conflict remains calm.

Baku Accuses Armenia of Cease-Fire Violations

LD2510174293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By AZERTAG news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Excerpt] Baku October 25 TASS—Armenian troops stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the Armenia's territory violated ceasefire accords on Monday staging a large-scale offensive, the press service of the Azeri Defence Ministry said.

According to the military, as a result of the attack, several Azerbaijan villages were captured. The strategic settlement of Goradiz was seized and burned down. An area with the population of 60,000 has been cut off from the Azerbaijan's territory.

Combat actions are now on in the vicinity of the state border with Iran. The situation thus threatens the security of the neighbouring states and the region as a whole, the Defence Ministry said.

The source mentions "numerous victims" among the civilian population. 15 thousand refugees are camping near the state border while 5,000 were forced to cross the border to look for safety on the Iran's side. 40 kilometres (about 25 miles) of the frontier line are now under control of the Armenian troops, the Azeri military stated. [passage omitted]

Nagorno-Karabakh Unilaterally Suspends Operations

LD2510211593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Forces command tonight ordered its troops unilaterally suspend military operations on the southern part of the front. As its press office told Interfax, this step was caused by the intention to ensure the safe evacuation of civilians from the conflict area.

President's Office: Armenia Not Interested in Peace

LD2510192893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Armenia is again showing it is not ready and not interested in bringing an end to the fighting against Azerbaijan or in bringing about a peaceful solution to the regional conflict, the Azeri president's press office said in a statement in Baku. It says the latest round of activity on the Azeri borders is reminiscent of the earlier scenario of Armenia's occupation of Azeri territories.

To back up these charges, the statement points to Armenia's military build-up along border areas adjacent to Azerbaijan's Kazakh, Tovuz and Agstafin regions.

It speaks of the redeployment of Armenian troops in the occupied Azeri lands, including the Agderin Region and northeastern parts of Nagorno-Karabakh. In addition to this, the statement also points to the concentration of Armenian forces and military hardware along the Gyulyusta-Talysh line and close to the Azeri Region of Ter-Ter adjacent to northeastern Karabakh.

Under the cover of a renewed cease-fire, Armenia is building up its strength to try to launch a major offensive in the Tovuz, Kazakh and Geranboi regions, Baku alleges.

According to Azeri intelligence, Armenia has continued the redeployment and concentration of manpower and equipment in northern Karabakh and Armenian regions bordering on Azerbaijan, the Azeri Defence Ministry's analytical center told Interfax. It says this in itself is an indication that Armenia does not honor the obligations it has undertaken under the cease-fire agreement.

Opposition Attempt To Assassinate Aliyev Confirmed

LD2510190193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 25 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] The Prosecutor General's Office in a statement issued in Baku on Sunday reaffirmed that the opposition was planning to assassinate the then acting president, Geydar Aliyev, on the night of September 30. The statement says the would be assassin, Gasan Toku Salkh-Zade of Turkey, who was detained outside the parliament building was in possession of firearms.

Toku had later confessed that he belonged to the Turkish National Movement and was talked into assassinating Aliyev by activists of the opposition People's Front of Azerbaijan (PFA) who supplied him with a sniper rifle, a handgun and hand grenade.

In its own statement, the PFA has accused the police of bringing reprisals and trumped up charges against Front members and other democratic structures in an attempt at discrediting the PFA and its leaders.

In the meantime, PFA leaders meeting on Saturday arrived at the conclusion that the organization must be reviewed and reshaped. They also set up a committee to clear the ground for PFA's third congress on December 31 timed to coincide with the international day of Azeri solidarity. The committee also includes ex-president Abulfaz Elchibey.

One PFA founding member, Tofig Gasymov, called to review the organization's legal status since the existing legislation barred such movements from taking part in general elections.

CSCE Delegation, Swedish Foreign Minister Visit

NC2510224293 Baku TURAN in English 0950 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 25 (TURAN)—This evening the CSCE delegation, headed by acting chairman of the CSCE, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Mrs. Margaretha Af Ugglas, arrives in Baku by a special maiden trip from Tbilisi today.

Early morning on Tuesday, the group of experts will leave for the Imishlinsky region in the south-west of the Republic, where they will meet with the refugees. The same day, the group of experts will hold a joint meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the procurator's office of the Azerbaijan Republic.

As Rovshan Dzhamshidov, the head of the Information Department of the MIA told TURAN's reporter, Mrs. M.A. Ugglas will meet with President G. Aliyev Tuesday morning. By the end of the meeting a joint press-conference of M.A. Ugglas and G. Aliyev will take place.

After the meeting with the Azeri Foreign Minister G. Gasanov and having drew the conclusion to the working meetings of the experts group, the CSCE delegation will leave for Baku suburb of Zagulba. There a meeting with the refugees from Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and with the head of the Azeri community of Nagorno-Karabakh Nizami Bakhmanov will take place.

It is reported, that after the meeting with the Foreign Minister G. Gasanov and then, with the State Secretary L. Gadzhiyeva the CSCE delegation will leave for Yerevan.

Last night a special envoy of the Russian President to Nagorno- Karabakh talks V. Kazimirov arrived to Baku. As the MFA press- service reported V. Kazimirov is the member of the CSCE mission.

CSCE Head Condemns Armenian Offensive

LD2610095793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0839 GMT 26 Oct 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 26 Oct—Margaretha af Ugglas, the Swedish foreign minister and chairwoman of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), who is in the Azerbaijani capital, has condemned the latest offensive by Armenian armed forces in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conlict. This was said this morning during her meeting with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev.

Margaretha af Ugglas stressed that the international organization that she chairs is in favor of observing the principles of territorial integrity and the inviolability of state borders and is against the seizure of land by force. She said that from today, the CSCE is to start to implement a new stage in the process for a peaceful settlment of the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The head of the Azerbaijani state stressed the important political significance of the statement that was made and expressed the certainty that it would allow the dangerous development of events to be stopped. It was noted that Azerbaijan had always placed a lot of hope on the CSCE in solving a number of the republic's most complicated problems and first and foremost the Karabakh problem. In Geydar Aliyev's opinion, there are positive aspects in the activity of the CSCE in this direction. At the same time, he believes that it is not so effective in terms of final results. The Azerbaijani leader appealed to the chairwoman of the CSCE and asked that this international organization use all its authority to end the military actions in the conflict zone.

Iran To Transport Azerbaijani Gas to Nakhichevan

NC2610103993 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Following talks held in Baku between the Azergas State Company and Iran's National Liquid Gas Company, a preliminary agreement was concluded that the Iranian company would transport liquid gas from Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan.

In keeping with the protocol of intent signed by both sides, the special large tankers provided by the Iranian side will transport 200 to 300 tons of liquid fuel each month to Nakhichevan through Iranian territory.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Urges Rebels To Surrender

LD2510143593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0705 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Interview with State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, last week state formations liberated several rayons [words indistinct]. Can it be that neither society nor the authorities completely comprehend the phenomenon called Zviadism? I could give you an example, our correspondent telephoned Poti and Poti's administrator said that they were distributing sugar and flour. We all know where that sugar and flour come from, said the correspondent, to which the administrator answered that the sugar and flour had been sent to the Gamsakhurdia authorities by the [word indistinct] authorities. This game looks like a game of war and a game of states, the only difference being that this game costs Georgia very dearly and a lot of blood.

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. I do not like the word liberated [words indistinct]. Unfortunately, the civil war of which we had been so frightened, proved to be inevitable. Many people are reproaching me that if it had not been for my course of reconciliation and forgiveness of the gangs, the situation could have been different. I must still say that [words indistinct], and it gave a definite result, anyway, the vast majority of our people support the unity, integrity, and the authorities and not only our people support that, the whole world supports Georgia today [words indistinct]. The world unequivocally expresses its stance toward the former president [Gamsakhurdia] and condemns it. This is the result of the fact that we did not want this civil war, the fratricidal war, we wanted reconciliation and the national unity, unification of states. Those who were against this process, are politically and morally, and in other respects, deprived [passage indistinct].

There is nothing in his [Gamsakhurdia's] personality except for chauvinistic demagogy, populism and practical fascist policy. This person is a dark force, a carrier of a traitor's ideology on whose conscience are [words indistinct]. These forces will be defeated and I do not doubt it for a second. [words indistinct] Now, who are these people [Gamsakhurdia supporters]? Not to mention the houses that got destroyed, the people killed, everything is known, in Samtredia, Poti, and other regions. If we just look at the fact that they distributed sugar and flour [words indistinct]. It has been established that 5 000 tonnes of sugar which we had received from Germany, were appropriated. They did not only distribute it, just one tenth of it was distributed—the rest was sent to Groznyy [where some of Gamsakhurdia's supporters still are]. Sachkhere, it got shipped away just like ferrous and non-ferrous metals, five ships filled with them [words indistinct]. Whatever could have been stolen, did get stolen. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] Unfortunately, the country failed to avoid [word indistinct], although there was a big chance of it during the battle for Sukhumi. [words indistinct] If we were to win or lose, we would have been together and the feeling of losing the battle would not have been so acute as now; more or less, we would have been united. [words indistinct] You represent official authorities and the official authorities are in Tbilisi and it is the official authorities who must decide. It is interesting to know their opinion about Loti Kobalia. More precisely, there are many people there, one more thing, we have information in this connection from reliable sources that out of nine young men who fled Kobalia's units, seven were caught and shot dead. [words indistinct] We have instances of this as well. People are frightened, they have no chance to flee [words indistinct].

[Shevardnadze] Abkhazia is on the conscience of these traitors. We should not have lost the war in Abkhazia and we would not have lost it because we were in the right, from the very beginning to the end. That is why the whole world is on our side. Once again, I would like to tell my fellow countrymen that our cause was right and our conscience is clean before the Abkhazians and Georgia. Had it not been for Kobalia's and the former president supporters' betrayal, we would have solved the Abkhaz issue by now according to our people's interests, the interests of our country and the interests of the Abkhaz people.

As for the situation today, the issue of main traitors must be resolved. We are often asked who they are, and we are told that we are talking too much about traitors and people want to know who these traitors are [word indistinct]. Today, the main traitor of Georgia and its main enemy is Gamsakhurdia and his admirers, we must comprehend it. I will take additional decisions and measures to put an end to this war. They [Gamsakhurdia supporters] must know it. I hope that they are listening to me and it is good if they are. I will do everything to concentrate forces even more. Manpower is important and the new equipment is important too, there is a possibility for this [words indistinct]. We must heal these wounds as quickly as possible and do the most important [word indistinct].

[Oniani] [question indistinct].

[Shevardnadze] It is our equipment. [Words indistinct] I would like every fighter who is fighting with Kobalia and is still on the side of the former president to know, there is only one way out—either extermination or surrender. There is no other alternative. Do not let anyone dream of another option and possibility. There will be no other force attacking, no other force. If anyone dares and gets additional units from Abkhazia, then I will let a completely different force interfere, the force which will really trample down everything, but it must not happen. Therefore, I am calling on everyone to surrender, hand over the arms, officially or unofficially, go home and look after your families, wherever you come from, Samegrelo, Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Racha or wherever, evrybody should follow their lighted paths and look after their families, I mean small culprits. As for major culprits, it is a subject for another conversation. Let everyone know that Gamsakhurdia and Kobalia are tearing and disintegrating Georgia. Those who want to tear and disintegrate Georgia, can stay on with them. I am calling on everybody, before more blood is shed, [words indistinct]. I am ashamed to admit that such atrocities were taking place in Georgia. Where does this atrocity come from? The atrocities which the Abkhaz separatists and their mercenaries are guilty of, shooting hundreds of people, were awful, but they were somehow explicable because they were our enemies [words indistinct] but here we have Georgians shooting hundreds of other Georgians. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] [Words indistinct] there is a doubt in our society that a passage will again be opened for the former president Gamsakhurdia to leave Georgia and that they would keep him before a suitable moment comes. Are there grounds to believe this?

[Shevardnadze] Probably, there are grounds for such speculations. As to my knowledge, the former president and his supporters were looking for an access to Poti, ships, and a passage out [passage indistinct].

[Oniani] [Question indistinct].

[Shevardnadze] Yes. Senaki Airport is a possibility, as well as Poti Airport, but it is not important, they are experts in fleeing. [Words indistinct] the sanction has been issued and the [word indistinct] bodies have the order to arrest them. [Words indistinct] as for the prospects of fleeing, I would like to declare that if any one country gives shelter to Gamsakhudia and his supporters, they would be sheltering Georgia's enemies, and coming out of this, I think that the way out is that the Gamsakhurdia- Ardzinba alliance will become clear and will shape out and I think that they must find a way [out] together.

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, despite more than a clear stance of the authorities, last week the following event took place: Ozurgeti's [former Makharadze] local authorities held negotiations with the opposing [Gamsakhurdia] side with Aslan Abashidze as a guarantor and they declared Ozurgeti a neutral zone.

To be honest, it is a little difficult to comprehend what it meant but it did happen. Then, the agreement as it was to be expected, was broken and the revanchist forces entered Ozurgeti. As an answer to that, those people interested [in instability] spread rumors about the alleged impending entrance of the state troops to Ajara. It was happening with such alarm as if Ajara were a foreign state but the main thing was that these intriguing [politikanuri] games, not political [politikuri] but intriguing games, treacherous plays are still continuing in Georgia, and there have been many examples of this.

[Shevardnadze] I know one thing, that the people of Ozurgeti were ready to fight and they did fight. They fought well and bravely near Maltakhva and other inhabited areas and they guarded villages. In the end, it so

happened that the state troops failed to find enough patience to stay in their positions and as you have said, some kind of game started, the game which did not lend honor to its participants. One could give a guarantee but if one does so, one must be sure that it will be materialized. And this was not the first instance. Such guarantees have been given before, like the one that Senaki would not be lost, Khobi would not be lost, somebody would stand in the middle, somebody would shoot in the back if anyone broke this [agreement], and all this, I am sorry to say, is trading with promises, it is no good. There must not be such occurrences in politics. I hope that everyone will draw relevant conclusions from these events.

As for the concentration [of forces] on the Ajarian border, it is not for the first time that I am hearing this. Today, I can assert that I have control over the situation, I know who is deployed where, who should be redeployed, where to move and there are no plans—over the last few days, anyway I know what aims our armed forces have been pursuing—there have been no such plans over the last three, four, five months and there are no such plans and will be none. God forbid, the Georgian authorities go against Ajaria. Why should it happen? There is no common sense in it. If anyone needs that for some particular aim, then let him find another cause but not the Georgian authorities' alleged plans of entering Ajaria. Maybe there are bandits or thieves and then we have to disarm them with joint forces [reference to government troops' presence at the border with Ajaria].

[Oniani] In your interview yesterday with Russian television you were asked, once again, about Georgia's possible federal arrangement. Having joined the CIS, is there a real danger that Georgia will be pressed to make unwanted compromises? Will the recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity by the west, the United Nations, or Russia help us legally or politically?

[Shevardnadze] I think that this question was asked prematurely yesterday and even today. It is early days to discuss the future statehood arrangement of Georgia. I said yesterday when I answered the question that the constitution was being prepared and probably it will be ended within the time limits set by parliament and then, the constitution and the referendum will have the answer to Georgia's [territorial] arrangement. Some people think that I do not support the idea that we have to have a federal arrangement; some people think that if we were to have a federal arrangement, then it would be a faceless and dead state. It is wrong, the Federal Republic of Germany is built on the principles of federalism. May God help us reach the same standard, from the point of view of centralism and order, which they have in the FRG.

[Oniani] Excuse me, if we reach that level, then the danger of federalism in Georgia will automatically disappear. That explains the danger of federalism.

[Shevardnadze] Federalism is not linked only with the issue of autonomies. We must be considering the general arrangement. We will be discussing the issue of whether the state will be federal or unitary during the debates in the constitutional commission and as I have said, people must give an answer to this. I hope that they understand well in the CIS that it is our people's decision, the decision of the citizens of Georgia and not of a televison program [allusion to his Russian television interview on 24 October].

[Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, Georgia has received humanitarian aid from many countries recently, since after we had so many refugees and the war in Georgia. Exceptional help from our Ukrainian friends and neighbors is mentioned in news bulletins. They have saved the lives of thousands of refugees, our Ukrainian friends have.

[Shevardnadze] In connection with the question about aid, I did not give you a full answer to the previous question. The West, especially after we had decided to join the CIS, became very active. The letter of the U.S. President and many other addresses, numerous delegations which are arriving here, very big aid, nearly every day we are receiving planes full of different foodstuffs and products necessary for us; what I want to say is that the attitude toward us has not deteriorated as one of my opponents was trying to assure me, but on the contrary, there is more trust and support. The western countries know that joining the CIS was the only way out of the situation and that our state and its head had to make such a decision.

[Oniani] But after Ugglas' visit in Moscow, her activity in Moscow during a meeting with Kozyrev...[changes thought] You fleetingly mentioned Clinton's letter yesterday; there were noteworthy sentiments in the letter saying that the U.S. supports Georgia's independence and your leadership and that it hopes that your visit to Washington will clearly demonstrate it to the regions and the world, in general.

[Shevardnadze] This is one of the manifestations of President Clinton's support for Georgia, the time he chose to make a decision to invite Georgia's leader to Washington. In my opinion, it is of a great importance, seeing it against the background of our decision of joining the CIS. It proves, once again, that our orientation remains the same, it is not going to change, it was a correct choice. Having joined the the CIS, relations with the United States and Europe, the CSCE, NATO, etc, remain in force. Therefore, I hope that the scale of aid rendered to us will grow and help us get over these difficult times that our country is going through. I would like to stress especially the warmth with which the Ukrainians helped us. If it had not been for those powerful 15-20 helicopters...[changes thought] A mobilization was called in Ukraine; there were 150 pilots and their personnel with spare parts for the helicopters. It was organized amazingly well. They saved the lives of the refugees. I would like to use this opportunity and convey my thanks to the president of Ukraine, Kravchuk, and the leadership of the country and the people of Ukraine who helped us. I would like to say that Ukraine helped us greatly. Military formations helped us too [passage indistinct].

[Oniani] Speaking of the United Nations, you noted that this organization has many times demonstrated support to Georgia recognizing its territorial integrity and backing Georgia's efforts to settle conflicts in a peaceful way. What do you think the United Nations should be like in future? Do you think it has the potential to become the world police in a positive sense of the word?

[Shevardnadze] First, I cannot help conveying gratitude to the United Nations, the Security Council, its permanent members, and those members which work in all spheres on behalf of democracy. They have passed four resolutions on Georgia and it can be said that each was better than the previous one. Each includes support, sympathy, and so on. The last one, passed with the participation of our foreign minister, is also very significant. It assesses practically the situation in Abkhazia, and ways are also defined—I mean, what ways should be taken to have the problem resolved. [passage omitted]

I have certain ideas about the future [of the UN]. Many things still require more thorough consideration [words indistinct]. Anyway, we have to talk about a serious restructuring of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

I know the secretary general's good and sober ideas about how the potential of the United Nations and its Security Council should be increased, but this cannot be solved easily, because all depends practically on the great countries, the permanent members of the Security Council. I am confident that the time will come in the near future when the United Nations will become the organization that will handle and will supervise the settlement of all acute problems. [passage omitted] The United Nations should be responsible for order and peace [passage indistinct].

Shevardnadze Appeals to Rebel Forces

LD2510164893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

["Appeal by Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state and chairman of parliament, to fellow citizens living in the temporarily occupied territories of Georgia and to the illegal units supporting Gamsakhurdia and Kobalia"; place and date issued not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Fratricidal civil war, chaos, and anarchy have brought the temporarily occupied rayons, villages, and towns of Georgia to catastrophe. Peaceful civilians have been devastated. The casualties are high. The economic crisis has become extremely acute. There are up to 250,000 refugees. Eighty percent of the population are living below the poverty line. A total genocide of the Georgian population, neo-fascist ethnic cleansing, and the slaughter of innocent people are going on in Abkhazia.

National spirit has been broken. Georgia's territorial integrity has been violated and temporarily upset. Gangs of mercenaries and foreign killers are plundering the temporarily occupied Georgian territory, burning houses, looting, robbing, killing, abusing women, and strangling babies in their cradles.

Many arteries which are vital to Georgia have been blocked, including railways, roads, ports, and enterprises. The war has inflicted damage worth hundreds of billions [currency not specified] on the economies of Georgia, Armenia, and Russia, their industries and agriculture. Unless the total destruction is stopped, catastrophe will not be averted.

The recent summit meeting of four independent countries, Georgia, Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, outlined measures to protect railways and roads in Georgia and the Transcaucasus region.

I address everyone who is fighting on the side of the illegal units of Gamsakhurdia-Kobalia. Your resistance is meaningless. The Georgian government troops will in the next few days completely clean up all occupied territories. Therefore, we call on you to lay down your arms or to join forces with the government troops fighting the enemy.

In accordance with the existing legislation, the Georgian state and I, in my capacity as its head, promise merciful and humane treatment and a peaceful return to their families and homes to everyone who is not a war criminal, everyone who has made a mistake or has been deceived—everything can happen in life. Therefore, I advise you to lay down your arms before it is too late or to rebel against the gangs of Gamsakhurdia-Kobalia. I pledge to pardon everyone who has not committed crimes and who will redeem their crimes by action against our common enemy.

Gamsakhurdia, Kobalia, and their minions have become bloody butchers of their own people. Therefore, criminal charges have been brought against them. The prosecutor general has issued a warrant for their arrest.

Killers, marauders, and bandits will be severely punished. War criminals will face the full severity of Georgian law, with the right to appeal to the international tribunal.

Citizens, it is time to come to your senses, voluntarily hand over arms to the government, and return to a peaceful and (?law-abiding) life. Join in the building of sovereign, single, [word indistinct], and new Georgia.

CSCE Chairwoman Arrives in Tbilisi

LD2510182293 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1000 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By unidentified reporter on arrival of Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas, CSCE chairwoman and Swedish foreign minister, in Tbilisi on 24 October]

[Text] [Reporter] Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas was met at the airport by Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze; Sandor Kavsadze, chairman of the Georgian committee for human rights and interethnic relations; representatives of the CSCE mission in Georgia; and other officials.

The visiting CSCE delegation went to the Georgian Foreign Ministry where a meeting was held between Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze and Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas.

The CSCE chairwoman expressed gratitude for the warm reception. She pointed out that Georgia is a new member of the CSCE and that her visit was aimed at resolving issues related to giving aid to Georgia, which will promote the activity of the CSCE mission in our country.

Baroness Margaretha af Ugglas stressed that the main purpose of her visit was to obtain detailed information about events unfolding in Georgia, especially in Abkhazia and Shida Kartli [South Ossetia].

She asked the Georgian side for its views on cooperation between the UN and the CSCE.

[Announcer] Margaretha af Ugglas, CSCE chairwoman and Swedish foreign minister, left for Tskhinvali today but is due to return to Tbilisi today and meet the Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze. At 1515 [1215 GMT] she is expected to hold a news conference at the parliament building.

Meets Shevardnadze

LD2510195893 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] As you know, Baroness Margaretha Af Ugglas, CSCE chairman and Swedish foreign minister, is on an official visit to Georgia. She was received today by Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze.

The honorable guest expressed gratitude for a warm welcome. She said that she felt obliged to carry out a detailed study of current processes in Georgia so that she would be able to acquaint the CSCE with the situation.

The importance of international organizations in the establishment of peace in the world has been once again emphasized. It was noted that, in order to strengthen the authority of the European parliament, it was necessary that this organization render active, practical assistance to countries on their road to freedom. It was also noted that complex processes taking place in Georgia would not impede relations with European countries in particular.

The conversation inevitably touched upon the Tskhinvali region and the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic. The two sides voiced a conviction that all problems could be settled only in a peaceful way. In this connection, the head of state expressed concern that ethnic purges were conducted against Georgians in Abkhazia and foreigners were given the right by Abkhaz separatists to settle in houses abandoned by Georgians.

In conclusion, Af Ugglas expressed her confidence that the CSCE would take all possible measures to defend the territorial integrity of Georgia and to bring to a successful end democratic processes in Georgia. [passage omitted]

Gamsakhurdia Forces 'Still Control Poti'

LD2510143493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 25 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow October 25 TASS—Georgian government troops recaptured the major port of Poti on the Black Sea which had been seized by supporters of ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian independent "BGI" news agency reported on Monday [25 October].

It said Murman Tsakadze, former security head of Poti, was appointed the mayor, the military commandant and police head of the city.

However, TASS correspondent in Tbilisi reported that armed units of gamsakhurdia still control Poti. The detachments under the command of Loti Kobalia are armed with tanks, howitzers, have enough ammunition and control the strategically important bridge near the settlement of Maltakva. The bridge crosses the marshlands of the Paleostomi lake and government troops advancing to Poti from the southern direction can encounter a major barrier on their way.

According to military sources, the government troops intend to deal flank strikes on Kobalia's units from the southern and northern directions which will help them surround Poti.

However, this will become possible only after they seize the city of Senaki, a junction for rail spur to Poti.

Currently the government forces are advancinmg towards Senaki using armour, long-range artillery, "Grad" rocket lauchers and assault aviation.

In the meantime, visiting CSCE chairwoman Margaretha af Ugglas visited South Ossetia on Monday, a Georgian breakaway region bordering on North Ossetia in Russia.

Government Controls Poti

LD2610063493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0515 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer] Vladimir Mezentsev has just called. He has an updated report on western Georgia. I will let him report this news to Mayak listeners. Volodya, go ahead.

[Mezentsev] Thank you. The situation in western Georgia remains very tense. Shevardnadze's government troops have taken the city of Poti and other population centers. Zviad Gamsakhurdia is in Zugdidi.

Yesterday I told listeners I had managed to talk to the former president. We agreed that I would get on the line to him regularly to cover events on both sides of the barricades. But today telephone communications with Zugdidi are cut off. You cannot phone via Tbilisi. I will try to find out later how things are in the Vakhtang Kobalia camp.

For now, about events in Adzharia: The Internal Affairs Service of the Autonomous Republic has detained a

group of ethnic Georgians for instigatory talk. They called on the local Georgian population to expell the Adzharians from Adzharia. Let them go to their Turkey, they said, explaining that Adzharians are Georgians. Many of the local inhabitants profess Islam. This happened because at one time Christian Georgia did not manage to protect all its children from the Turkish yoke. So today there is no greater insult to an Adzharian than to be told he is not a Georgian. Incidentally, similar aggressive calls have been addressed to the Russians, Greeks, and Armenians living in multi-ethnic Batumi.

On the instructions of Ajaria Supreme Soviet Chairman Aslan Abashidze, the inciters have been expelled from the autonomous republic, but Abashidze is convinced that a fifth column is operating in the city.

According to the instigatory talk, statements are now being made by the Tbilisi leadership attempting to put the blame for the defeat in Abkhazia on Abashidze and his Ajaria which, as we know, is not taking part in the fratricidal bloodbath.

The situation in Batumi remains stable. Nevertheless, a tank has been placed outside the Ministry of Internal Affairs right on the embankment. All vitally important facilities are guarded by armor. Patrols are mounted.

We hope that common sense will prevail to prevent a fresh bloodbath in Adzharia, in the Adzharian Autonomous republic.

Vladimir Mezentsev for Mayak Panorama. Thanks.

[Announcer] I remind you that after the liberation of the Black Sea port town of Poti there remain only three west Georgian towns under the control of the Zviadists: Zugdid, Senaki and Khobi.

Curfew in Poti

LD2510144493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Ramul Japaridze, a duty officer at the state of emergency committee headquarters, has told a SAKINFORM correspondent that at 1245 hours on 25 October, Colonel Griagalashvili from the government troops headquarters contacted him by telephone and reported that the ex-president's [Gamsakhurdia's] supporters subjected the town of Abasha to artillery fire from Senaki.

At the same time it emerged that a curfew has been announced in the town of Poti. The town suburbs are being cleaned up from units supporting Gamsakhurdia. Government troops are in full control of the situation.

The Georgian deputy interior minister, Temur Mikadze, has said it is calm in Samtredia.

Kutaisi Stable, Rebels Active in Abasha Rayon

LD2608100093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Kutaisi Mayor Temur Shashiashvili has told our correspondent that the situation in the city is stable. Local forces have sealed off the city. Movement in and out of the city is under strict control. There are no reports of looting.

Our correspondent also contacted Abasha this morning. Abasha Regional Governor Soso Chanturia reported that the situation in the town is serious. Illegal armed units have plundered the whole region, taking everything that could be taken. The whole infrastructure is in disarray. Small gangs of bandits supporting Gamsakhurdia are still operating in the region. Extra forces are necessary to thwart their activity.

Zviadist Armed Gangs Disrupt Railway Services

LD2510181893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Remi Vashakidze, the head of the Georgian Railway Department, reports that trains only travel from Tbilisi to Batumi, Samtredia, Kutaisi, and Ozurgeti. Railway traffic to Poti has been halted due to the activities of the Zviadist armed gangs. They stole leads of contact circuits at sections between [word indistinct] and Samtredia, Senaki, Poti, and Sajavakho-Samtredia. A several dozen kilometer long railway line has been destroyed by them. A railway bridge over the Tskhenistskali River has been damaged. The restoration of the damaged lines will cost several hundreds of millions of Russian rubles.

Update on Buildup to Fighting in Senaki, Zugdidi

LD2610115593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Experts believe the towns of Senaki and Zugdidi to be the last stronghold of supporters of the ex-president of Georgia. In their view, it is precisely in the areas around these populated localities that there will be fierce fighting. Nikolay Mamulashvili has the details.

[Mamulashvili] Troops of the Georgian Defense Ministry and units of the Mkhedrioni armed formations are at the Tekhuri river, a few kilometers from the town of Senaki. According to recent information, supporters of the ex-president are fortifying this populated locality and also the town of Zugdidi, which, to remind you, is the center of the Zviadist movement, attempting to turn them into impenetrable fortresses. Georgian official sources report that the Zviadists are building fortifications, dug-outs and other obstructions right along the confrontation line.

Military experts believe that there will be battles and, in all probability, quite fierce ones. To avoid casualties, the command of Georgian Government troops has appealed to all fighters in Zviadist formations to show some sense, surrender their weapons, and give up the fratricidal war. A similar proposal was made by head of the Georgian state Eduard Shevardnadze, who proposed that the Zviadists either hand in their arms or go over to the side of the government troops. The Georgian state and I personally, Shevardnadze said, promise that all those who are not war criminals or misguided will be pardoned and returned to peaceful life.

Lastly, Teymur Shashiashvili, mayor of the town of Kutaisi, said in a conversation with me on 26 October that police units are urgently being brought into towns over which government troops have established control to combat looters and gangs. According to certain information, about 5,000 representatives of the law-enforcement bodies are to be transferred to the region to establish order and control. Nikolay Mamulashvili of the Iprinda Agency specially for the news service.

Government Forces Advance

LD2610105593 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1015 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Major Soso Margishvili, chief of the Georgian Defense Ministry press center, told the CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY at 1200 today that after the liberation of Poti, a Defense Ministry mobile group continued its advance toward Senaki last night. After a battle which took place 7 km from Poti and lasted for several hours, the opposing side retreated in panic, suffering considerable losses. The government forces took control of a nearby bridge.

At dawn today, the 1st Battalion of the mobile group under the command of Captain Mikheil Tatarashvili entered the village of Akhalsopeli.

On the Abasha front today, Defense Ministry units led by Colonel Boris Grigalashvili crossed the river Abashistskali and approached the river Tekhura.

Government troops are continuing their advance toward Senaki.

Foreign Ministry Briefs Media on UN Role in Abkhazia

LD2510182693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Georgia's Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze held a news conference today on the actions of the United Nations and its Security Council aimed at solving the Abkhaz issue. IPRINDA agency correspondent Nikolay Mamulashvili reports from Tbilisi.

[Mamulashvili] The fact that another resolution was adopted last week by the UN and its Security Council—a third one on this issue—was described by Aleksandr Chikvaidze as something unprecedented. Such attention to Georgia on the part of the Security Council is a result of a correct foreign policy, and of objective information about events in Abkhazia reaching the international community, the minister stressed.

Turning to the contents of the resolution, Aleksandr Chikvaidze singled out as particularly important those points where the violation of the ceasefire agreement by the Abkhaz side is condemned, and also where it is pointed out that Abkhazia is impeding humanitarian actions. The UN and the Security Council have appealed to both sides to assist the fact-finding mission, which is to look into, among other things, incidents of ethnic cleansing of the Georgian population in Abkhazia.

As for the provision which contains an appeal to create conditions for a return of refugees to their homelands, this, according to Chikvaidze, is impossible to implement at this stage. The minister said that a very serious mechanism has to be worked out if this issue is to be solved. Safety has to guaranteed to those who return to Abkhazia. In addition, there could be moral and psychological barriers, he said. After all, the refugees will not be able to forget what they have been through.

Turning to the prospects for solving the Abkhaz problem, Aleksandr Chikvaidze said that in his view the international communuty would not look kindly upon the use of force in order to enter Abkhazia. At this stage, only peaceful negotiations and a dialogue are a viable option.

Armed Forces Command Offers Pardon to Rebel Fighters

LD2510182593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 25 Oct 93

["Appeal" by the government's Armed Forces Command to members of illegal units loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia; place and date not given]

[Text] We are presenting an appeal to members of illegal units loyal to Gamsakhurdia by the government's Armed Forces Command:

It is known that many deceived and duped people are fighting against their own people in the illegal units loyal to Gamsakhurdia. Recent events have demonstrated to many of them the senselessness of the shedding of Georgian blood by Georgians and of an apparent alliance of Gamsakhurdia and his accomplices with Abkhaz separatists and North Caucasian confederates. Because of this, many fighters have set the guns aside and have returned to peaceful lives. Many others are held back by fear of vengeance.

The government Armed Forces Command appeals to every fighter of Loti Kobalia's illegal units to show reason, to refuse to continue fratricidal war and bloodshed, and to surrender weapons immediately. The Armed Forces Command guarantees freedom from all responsibility for those who surrender weapons to government troops on their own and who return to peaceful life.

Warrants Issued for Arrest of Zviadists

LD2510212893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Statement by the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia]

[Text] In September-October 1993 illegal armed units loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia and headed by Vakhtang Kobalia, Akaki Eliava, and others captured by armed force the towns of Poti, Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Chkhorotsku, Khobi, Senaki, Abasha, Martvili, and the corresponding rayons and persecuted the population

causing casualties. They stole a large amount of state-owned and private property, and wilfully sacked heads of rayons and other officials previously appointed by the legal authorities.

All this means that they committed a premeditated act directed at overthrowing the state authorities and seizing power. In connection with these facts, the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Georgia has instituted proceedings on the basis of articles 65, 73, 78, and 96 of the Criminal Code. Operative groups of investigators have been established. Immediately after the liberation of the captured rayons, they left for the corresponding areas and launched their investigation.

The Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Georgia has issued warrants for the arrest of Besarion Gugushvili, Nemo Burchuladze, Nugzar Molodinashvili, Tamaz Lashadze, Tamaz Baramidze, Zviad Dzidziguri, and Soso Zhghenti for high treason and anti-state activities.

This criminal investigation will be supervised by Grigol Paichadze, deputy prosecutor of the Republic of Georgia.

The Prosecutor's Office appeals to members of illegal armed units to cease their resistance, promptly lay down their arms, and resume a peaceful life.

A person who has not committed grave crimes and who acknowledges his guilt by giving himself up to the law-enforcement bodies will be exempt from criminal prosecution.

Ministry Puts Recaptured Areas Under Central Control

LD2610100593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The Georgian Interior Ministry is strictly selecting staff at officer rank in city and rayon internal affairs departments. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by telephone today at the Georgian Interior Ministry's press service that in order to strengthen law-enforcement agencies in the fight against crime in areas liberated from the illegal armed formations of supporters of [deposed president] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, control over certain regional directorates has been entrusted to high-ranking personnel from the central apparatus.

According to the Georgian Interior Ministry, several armed groups suspected of pillage, robbery, and violence have been detained in those regions in the past 24 hours, thanks to decisive action by reinforced police units. Dozens of firearms and large quantities of ammunition have been confiscated from them.

Ajarian Leaders Appeal for Unity, Halt to Civil War

AU2510205893 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 14 Oct 93 p 1

["Appeal to the Population of Georgia From the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria Supreme Council Presidium"; place and date not given]

[Text] The catastrophic events that have recently taken place have shown once again that disunity, opposition, and attempts to resolve problems by forceful methods have so far brought Georgia nothing but the violation of state integrity and the most serious national tragedy.

Unfortunately, today, we evidently do not want to fully grasp the most serious consequences of [the events that occurred in] Samachablo [South Ossetia] and Abkhazia, and we are again faced with a self-destructive stubbornness unleashing a new hotbed of civil war in western Georgia.

Brothers belonging to the same nation, having armed themselves with heavy equipment, artillery, and aviation, are once again fighting to the death. Positions, towns, and rayons occupied by both sides are again being mercilessly bombed. Young people, the peaceful population, children, women, and old people are again being killed. We are once more, without second thoughts, methodically destroying and ravaging our own country.

The fratricidal civil war, which is accompanied by the extremely tense political and socioeconomic situation that has taken shape in the country, the inertia of the law, and chaos, will enter into a far more complex and extremely dangerous phase, as it is creating the basis for the consolidation of those forces that do not want the territorial integrity of Georgia.

The coverage of events by certain mass media and television from one point of view that suits only one particular side, the dissemination of preplanned purposive disinformation among the population, the distortion of the truth, and the systematic propaganda of the positions of certain political leaders—the supporters of the escalation of violence—spell disaster for the people, as it has become clear to everyone today that they, hiding behind the slogans of independence and democracy and seized by a desire to satisfy their personal interests and well-being, are struggling only for power and in no way care about national-state interests and pour slander on all who do not support them and everything that is not to their liking.

In spite of the tragic development of events, there still remains the possibility of finding a peaceful way out of the crisis situation that has taken shape. History and our descendants will not forgive us if we let this chance slip out of our hands.

At this difficult time for the nation and the motherland, the leadership of Ajaria, while continuing to concern itself with the resolution of problems by political methods, appeals to the inhabitants of all the regions of Georgia, political parties, social organizations, and armed formations: The time has come for all of us to come to our senses, put down our weapons, unite, and overcome strife and mistrust, and immediately halt the shameful civil war that is destroying and crushing the nation and the country so that we can avoid its destructive consequences and set about rebuilding the country.

Today, as never before, goodwill needs support. **The leadership of the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria, sharing**

its full responsibility before the people and future generations, is consistently pursuing and implementing in practice the policy of regulating conflicts by political and peaceful methods and this is precisely the reason why we ask everyone for support and assistance in carrying out this mission, as it is exactly in this way that we can overcome the deep crisis and build a genuinely democratic rule-of-law state.

[Signed] Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria

Gamqrelidze Asks North Atlantic Assembly for Aid

AU2610110193 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 14 Oct 93 p 1

[Speech by Tamaz Gamqrelidze, chairman of the Georgian Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, at the annual session of the North Atlantic Assembly held in Copenhagen 7-11 October]

[Excerpts] **The annual session of the North Atlantic Assembly was held in the Danish capital of Copenhagen from 7 to 11 October 1993 in whose work a Georgian delegation composed of Tamaz Gamqrelidze, chairman of the Georgian Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, and commission member Zurab Andriadze took part.**

At a plenary meeting of the session, a speech was delivered by Tamaz Gamqrelidze who communicated to the session an address to the North Atlantic Assembly from Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze. Here is this speech:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor and a special privilege for me to speak at this session.

First of all, I would like to thank the president of the North Atlantic Assembly for having invited a Georgian delegation to its annual session in Copenhagen as an observer. I hope that our participation in the work of an international organization at such a high level will direct the attention of world public opinion to the recent events in the Caucasus that, unfortunately, will have serious consequences in the sphere of politics and military relations, not only in this region but also far beyond its borders. The political life of Georgia during the last few weeks has been dominated by the dramatic events in Abkhazia, the war that has ended in the conquest of the entire territory of Abkhazia, this autonomous republic of Georgia, by separatist forces.

This happened shortly after lengthy and uninterrupted attacks were launched over 10 days against undefended Sukhumi that were accompanied by heavy artillery fire and the bombing of the city's residential areas, which resulted in numerous victims among the peaceful population. Universally accepted moral norms and those pertaining to international law have been fragrantly violated. Genocide and ethnic cleansing have now embraced the whole territory of Abkhazia. As Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian state, pointed out—I quote: "Following the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the first ethnic minority, that is to say the Abkhazians, have established their own power by means of blatant violence and terror.

"Their leaders would not have achieved their success if it had not been for the participation of external forces. Separatism has been nourished, incited, and directed by imperialist Russia, the Russia of state communist revanchism."

These words have been dramatically confirmed by the recent events in Moscow when these imperialist forces showed us their face. Suffice it to say that those Abkhazian combatants who have brought so much misery, suffering, and torment to our motherland were among the so-called defenders of the White House, on the side of Rutskoy and Khasbulatov.

Thousands of refugees of Georgian nationality are leaving Abkhazia on foot through the Caucasian mountains. Women, children, and old people are dying on the way from cold and starvation. Up to 50,000 refugees are stuck in the high snow-covered mountains. As a result of the conflict, the number of persons banished from their places of birth has reached 150,000.

The small number of Georgians who are still in the conflict zone are in constant danger and one hopes that the Georgian Government and international organizations will assist in the evacuation.

The Georgian leadership is doing everything possible to render assistance to those persons in the disaster zone. However, we do not have sufficient forces to help the refugees and we need more international aid, both humanitarian and technical.

We are very grateful for the assistance rendered but we request of the world community that it extend the scale of this assistance.

We hope that, as a result of the involvement of the newly formed countries and international organizations in this process, there will be greater support to save our citizens from becoming the victims of separatism and ethnic cleansing.

The scale of the catastrophe that has befallen Georgia requires the immediate coordination of an international aid program. We call upon the North Atlantic Assembly to use its authority and power in order to implement this program. We believe that the first step in this direction would be for Georgia and its newly elected parliament possibly to become a member of the North Atlantic Assembly, which would enable us to cooperate actively with this most authoritative international organization. [passage omitted]

In his speech in response, North Atlantic Assembly President Loic Bouvard promised the Georgian delegation that the Republic of Georgia would be admitted as a member of the North Atlantic Assembly at its next regular session.

Estonia

Justice Minister's Possible Resignation Discussed

WS2510150293 Tallinn BNS in English 1738 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 23, BNS—A member of the Pro Patria faction in the Estonian parliament, Andres Heinapuu, affirmed to BNS that Prime Minister Mart Laar brought up Justice Minister Kaido Kama's resignation at the faction's meeting Thursday [21 October].

"As far as I understand, that was exactly the way the question was posed," he said.

Heinapuu said, however, that the meeting did not discuss Defense Minister Juri Luik's dismissal.

Heinapuu refused further comment on the meeting referring to a corresponding agreement.

Heinapuu, who along with Kama belonged to the Estonian Conservative People's Party that subsequently merged with Pro Patria, said there's an "anti-Kama campaign" afoot with sides being taken also within the party's parliamentary faction.

He added that the mood at Thursday's meeting made him doubt if Kama can continue as the justice minister.

"The conservative wing of Pro Patria, whose only minister Kama is, as well as Pro Patria as a whole would have cause to regret Kama's leaving," Heinapuu said.

"Kama began work on reform legislation already in the times of the former Supreme Council," he said. "His leaving would break continuity in this field that is very dangerous."

The premier told the press on Friday that reports on demands being made to have Kama and Luik relieved of their posts are "errant untruths." Heinapuu's statement indicates Laar's claim is not entirely accurate.

An MP from Pro Patria's parliamentary faction told BNS after the meeting Thursday on condition of anonymity that Laar insisted the meeting approve Kama and Luik's dismissal.

The premier and the government's press secretary, Ain Saarna, denied the MP's statement on Friday.

Laar: Resignations Report 'Downright Lie'

WS2510143093 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1907 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] Tallinn, October 22—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar told ETA that a piece of news by the agency BNS, issued Thursday night, according to which Laar had demanded Minister of Justice Kaido Kama and Minister of Defence Juri Luik to resign, was a "downright lie" and all cabinet ministers, including Economics Minister Toomas Sildmae, of whose dismissal press spoke about on Wednesday, will continue their work at the government.

"I do not see any problem either from the side of Prime Minister nor the ruling Fatherland faction that they should not do so," Laar said.

"While reading the statement of BNS, which cited a person close to the faction, I was totally amazed. I, as the Prime Minister, have never thought of taking the press to the court. But what can one do to protect the nation from shocking news like that? Who should protect the Prime Minister from downright lies?" Laar asked.

Statements like that have a strong political flavor which might have an especially unfavorable influence on the Estonian foreign political image, he added. He said that for more than three weeks attempts have been made to provoke inner disagreements in the government, which, he admitted, had been partly successful.

Prime Minister said he would sue the agency at the Council of Public Word, an institution which aims at ensuring justice in press.

Pro Patria Leader To Withdraw From Faction Election

WS2610100493 Tallinn BNS in English 1710 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 25, BNS—The chairman of the Pro Patria parliamentary faction, Illar Hallaste, told BNS that he intends to pull his name from the running for faction leadership in next week's faction elections.

Hallaste blamed his withdrawal from party politics on a smear campaign conducted against him and health problems.

He was hospitalized Monday with heart trouble. "My health didn't stand up to the wear and tear," he said.

Hallaste wouldn't comment on his disagreements with Prime Minister Mart Laar and Economics Minister Toomas Sildmae.

Hallaste is the third faction leader to relinquish his post. One of the Pro Patria faction's two deputy chairmen, Indrek Kannik, told BNS on Sunday [24 October] he doesn't intend to run for re-election. The other deputy chairman, Heiki Kranich, has also announced his plans to withdraw.

Pro Patria Member Notes Laar Comment on Party Strength

WS2510145993 Tallinn BNS in English 1738 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 23, BNS—A member of the Pro Patria faction in the Estonian parliament, Andres Heinapuu, expressed amazement at Prime Minister Mart Laar's claim that the faction has become stronger.

"I don't see it that way," Heinapuu said. "It's an open secret that six Liberals who currently belong to the Pro Patria faction plan in the near future to form a faction of their own."

"There are also great differences of opinion among other members of the faction," he said.

Heinapuu said that, as far he knows, the Liberals don't plan to leave the ruling coalition, but intend to distance themselves from Pro Patria's policies.

Prime Minister Mart Laar claimed Friday [22 October] in an interview to the Estonian Radio the Pro Patria faction has in recent times gained strength and that this has forced its opponents to begin "psychological warfare."

Narva Leader on Voting Plans for Russian Elections

WS2510140793 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 22 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 22, BNS—About 11,000 Narvans who hold Russian citizenship plan to go to the polls in the Dec. 12 elections to the new Russian Federal Assembly, the chairman of the Narva Union of Russian Citizens, Yuri Mishin, informs.

"We sincerely hope the Estonian government allows polling stations to be set up in Narva," he said.

Mishin said the Russian Otechestvo (Fatherland) election coalition proposed he should stand for the Federal Assembly. Otechestvo is the only coalition whose election platform promises protection of the interests of Russian citizens residing abroad, he said. The Otechestvo ticket hasn't yet been officially registered in Russia.

The Russian national election commission has announced that Russian citizens who permanently reside abroad, including the Baltic states, have the right to vote in the elections to the Federal Assembly. Polling stations will be set up in Russian embassies and consular offices. All citizens wishing to vote must previously register themselves.

Ukrainian Ambassador Presents Credentials

WS2210143693 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1802 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Tallinn, October 21—Ukraine's ambassador to Estonia, Yuriy Olenenko [name as received], presented his credentials to President Lennart Meri on Thursday becoming the country's first ever ambassador to Estonia.

Olenenko forwarded Meri greetings from his government while saying that his country was looking at Estonia as an example in changing the political and economic system as well as developing national culture.

Meri stressed the importance of constructive cooperation between the two countries saying that an inter-state agreement concluded in 1922 was still valid today. [passage omitted]

Lithuania

Lack of Agreement With Russia Hampers Investigations

WS2510150493 Tallinn BNS in English 1738 GMT 23 Oct 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Oct 23, BNS— The lack of an agreement on legal cooperation between Russia and Lithuania puts a brake on the investigation of cases related to the January 1991 events in Vilnius and the killing of border guards at Medininkai, says Kestutis Betingis, a senior investigator at the Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office, in an interview to the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper.

Betingis notes that the office's chances of progress are slim as long as investigation is conducted within Lithuania, since the principal criminals are beyond its borders. The Lithuanian investigator concedes that his Russian colleagues are prepared to cooperate in investigation of criminal cases, but says that as soon as Lithuanian officials raise the question of interrogating persons involved in the January events the problem of juridical cooperation crops up.

Betingis hopes that Moscow will in the wake of the October crisis take radical steps to solve the problem. He pins his hopes on the newly appointed Russian general prosecutor, A. Kazannik.

The Lithuanian embassy in Moscow proposed at the request of the Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office a meeting between Kazannik and the leaders of the Lithuanian office. Kazannik did not turn down the proposal, but a date for it hasn't yet been set, said Betingis.

Bilateral Relations Discussed With Belarus

WS2610100693 Tallinn BNS in English 1710 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Oct 25, BNS—Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas says he's satisfied with the results of his meetings with Belarussian Parliament Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, Prime Minister Viktor Kebich and Foreign Minister Piotr Kravchuk.

Jursenas visited Minsk last weekend and participated in the commemoration of Belarussian Jews killed during World War II.

At a press conference Monday [25 October], Jursenas said his meetings in Minsk were mainly devoted to the future of Lithuanian-Belarussian relations. "The sides expressed their mutual interest in intensifying ties and to create neighborly relations." He also said that Lithuania and Belarus agreed to exchange parliamentary and government delegations.

Commenting on border delimitations, Jursenas said "a compromise solution, which does not damage Lithuania's interests," is ready.

Defense Ministry To Receive Free Arms From Czechs

LD2510190793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Ilya (Hanus), the military and aviation attache of the Czech Republic to Lithuania, said that (?there has been a request) from the Lithuanian National Defense Ministry concerning the supply of military equipment which could be given to Lithuania free of charge.

The decision to supply military equipment worth 2 million crowns which is about $66,600, was adopted by the Czech Government last week, as a result of the recent visit by Audrius Butkevicius, national defense minister of Lithuania, to that country.

Most probably this will be basically military equipment that was to be destroyed both from economic considerations and following international obligations.

The Czech military attache to Lithuania said that according to him, Lithuania will become the first country to receive armament from the Czech Republic free of charge.

Prospects of NATO Membership Examined

PM2110140393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 93 p 7

[Yuriy Stroganov report: "Lithuania: Politicians Hankering After NATO"]

[Text] Political figures in Lithuania have recently been fairly actively trumpeting the idea of the country's membership of NATO. That this topic has cropped up is no chance occurrence. The present authorities' concept of the republic's integration into Europe's political and economic structures has long been common knowledge. Answering direct questions on membership of NATO, National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius replied in similar vein while avoiding simple assessments. Nevertheless, Lithuanian politicians are in quite active contact with NATO, and the bloc's top officers are likewise in contact with the republic's military. Visits by NATO warships to Klaipeda have become standard practice.

Lithuania was the first of the Baltic countries to "be liberated" from the troops of a "foreign state." It seems to want to be the first to undertake definite steps, too. However, the question is far from simple. President Algirdas Brazauskas' words on his return from Vienna, where he met with leaders of Council of Europe states and governments, lead to the conclusion that the republic's membership of NATO is possible in principle. But there are quite a few hurdles to surmount. In the president's words, leaders of foreign states are taking a fairly skeptical view of the possibility of the republic's membership of NATO. Brazauskas believes that it would be undiplomatic to put that question starkly and openly today. In addition, it is necessary to coordinate this matter with Latvia and Estonia, where Russian troops remain.

Meanwhile politicians, who cannot be ranked among the country's ruling forces but who nevertheless wield considerable influence, often put it less diplomatically when the discussion turns to membership of NATO. The position of Aloizas Sakalas, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, is indicative in this regard. His party stands between the forces at opposite ends of the spectrum: It is in opposition to the left but does not identify with the right. In addition, Sakalas is deputy chairman of the Seimas. Asked whether it is expedient for Lithuania to join NATO, he said that, in the party's opinion, NATO would be a good barrier against possible instability in Russia. Membership would benefit the republic now too, in his words.

This viewpoint is shared by the moderate "National Progress" Movement's Council. In the latter's opinion, Russia may pose a threat to Lithuania and other small neighboring states.

The existence of such anxieties—be they valid or fueled artificially—may serve, according to political scientists, as an incentive to further active steps toward NATO membership. And although mutual relations between Russia and the bloc have changed drastically since the downfall of communism, there are nevertheless, as we can see, some Lithuanian politicians who see NATO as a counterbalance to hypothetical threats from the East.

President Brazauskas is now preparing to visit NATO and the EC. Ambassador A. Venskus has promised that he will do everything to ensure that as many of the questions of importance to Lithuania as possible are resolved during the visit.

German President: Baltics Belong to Common Europe

AU2410142693 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 23 Oct 93 p 4

["Th" report: "Weizsaecker: Baltic States Belong to Europe"]

[Text] Vilnius, 22 October—During his official visit to Lithuania on Thursday and Friday, German President Richard von Weizsaecker stressed that this country and the two other Baltic states "belong to our common Europe." Germany feels it is an advocate of Baltic interests on the path toward European institutions. Germany supports Lithuania in the difficult process of transformation toward democracy and market economy. Germany has particular understanding for Lithuania, not only because it is Lithuania's closest EC neighbor but also because it is familiar with the problems of transformation, as a result of the experiences of the new laender. Weizsaecker recommended expanding cooperation among the Baltic states to strengthen independence and contribute to European institutions.

Concerning the question of Lithuania's joining NATO, which President Brazauskas is striving for cautiously via

"quiet diplomacy" and for which the national opposition under Landsbergis urges clear statements, Weizsaecker said that Germany and Lithuania agree on the view that the task of security is a common task of all of Europe. In the long run, the development will lead to Lithuania's participation in "common security structures." These structures will be all the more effective the more they are developed in agreement with all European partners, the president said, referring to the ambiguous reaction by Moscow and the debate within NATO. Weizsaecker assured his hosts that Germany welcomes Lithuania's function as a bridge between East and West. The more Lithuania and the other Baltic states fulfill this bridging function, the more valuable they are to the EC.

President Brazauskas, who held several talks with Weizsaecker and discussed, in addition to bilateral issues, the political situation in Lithuania, the relations with the neighboring states, and the political development in Russia, thanked Germany for its moral and material support. He tries to develop good-neighborly relations both with Poland and with Russia. This policy of pragmatic solutions and efforts for reconciliation—also in order to promote democracy in Russia—is, however, disputed at home, since the opposition smells the betrayal of national interests and the danger of a rapprochement to the CIS.

Weizsaecker exercised restraint regarding central bilateral issues: Compulsory visas for Lithuanians and compensation for victims of the Nazi regime. Concerning compulsory visas, which have led to endless lines in front of the German Embassy in Vilnius, the president stressed, however, that the Foreign Ministry is trying to quickly and completely fulfill the desire for unhindered tourist traffic. Concerning the issue of compensation, which is considered to be particularly sensitive because the number of the mainly Jewish survivors is decreasing and Vilnius does not understand Bonn's hesitation, since it has, after all, paid 1 billion marks to Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, Weizsaecker emphasized that new forms of help are being looked into at the moment.

The presidents agreed that the troop concentration in the region of Koenigsberg [Kaliningrad] is "not normal." Brazauskas expressed the hope that the demilitarization of Europe will lead to the Koenigsberg area becoming a trade region. Weizsaecker, too, saw superior prospects in the development of a trading center, which could be "operated jointly" by all parties interested in the Baltic Sea area. However, the initiative must come from Moscow, he said.

Government To Introduce New Visa Regulations 1 Nov

LD2510202693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The department of press and information at the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that, in accordance with a decision of the Lithuanian Government, a visa regime has been introduced starting on 1 November of the current year for the citizens of the CIS countries, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova.

This means that the citizens of the above countries will be able to enter the territory of Lithuania only with the passports of their state that are valid abroad and who have a visa of the Republic of Lithuania. The visa will be issued at embassies of the Republic of Lithuania and at consular offices abroad. In an exception, a visa can be issued at border crossing points.

The embassies of many states in the world issue a visa only if an invitation form, officially issued by the state and confirmed by official institutions, is produced. This type of invitation has also been introduced in Lithuania.

Taking into consideration the currently existing economic relations and other circumstances between the Republic of Lithuania and the CIS countries, the Lithuanian Government has temporarily adopted a decision that the invitations for the citizens of CIS countries, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova are equated with the visa of the Republic of Lithuania until 1 June of next year. This means that the citizens of the above states would be able to enter Lithuania only with passports of their state that are valid abroad and with a visa of the Republic of Lithuania or with an invitation form that had been issued and confirmed by the migration department at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to point out that this provisional privilege does not mean that the visa regime has been abandoned. It only provides the opportunity to gradually regulate the stream of people currently travelling to the Republic of Lithuania from the CIS countries. [passage omitted]